YOUNG KING COMICS

スピリットサークル

魂環

03

水上悟志

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―魂環―

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水上悟志

★最新コミックス2巻同時発売記念・巻頭カラー!!

スピリットサークル 魂環

SATOSHI MIZUKAMI presents

巻頭カラー30ページ輪廻転生ファンタジー

SPIRIT CIRCLE 魂環

Chapter 15
Houtarou, Part 1

水上悟志
SATOSHI MIZUKAMI

最新コミックス
2巻絶賛発売中!!
2巻の続きは
今号ですぐ読める!!

THE BATTLE SPANNING SEVEN LIFETIMES WAS BORN FROM THIS MOMENT!! の

既刊コミックス
好評発売中!!
★完結してなおロングラン大ヒット!!
[惑星のさみだれ] 全10巻
★デビュー作収録の初期短編
[けごけご]
★まるっと繋がる異色短編集
[宇宙大帝キングサンダーの冒険]
★復刻ギャグファンタジー!!
[新装版エンシェルお悩み相談所]

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!!

Uh.. Why was it again?
...?
Well, that's obvious..
Why, you ask?
tooo-
naaA!!
FPOOO
rrr
KAAA-
-NNG

My FATHER was..!!
Because of YOU, East was..

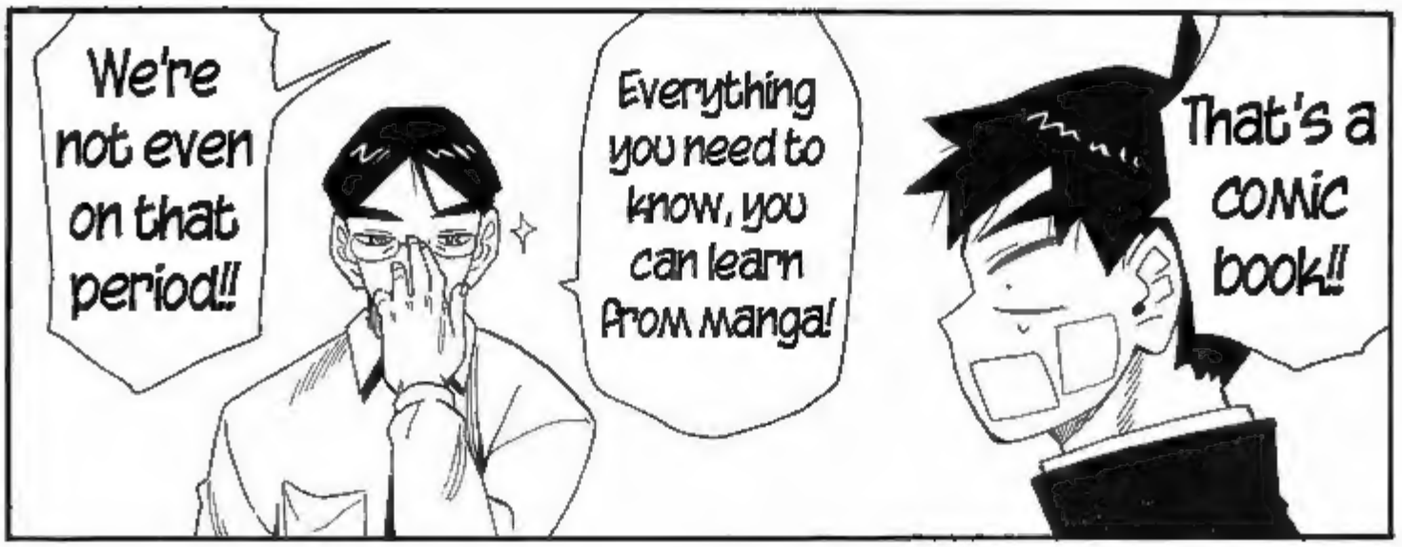
If it takes a thousand years..

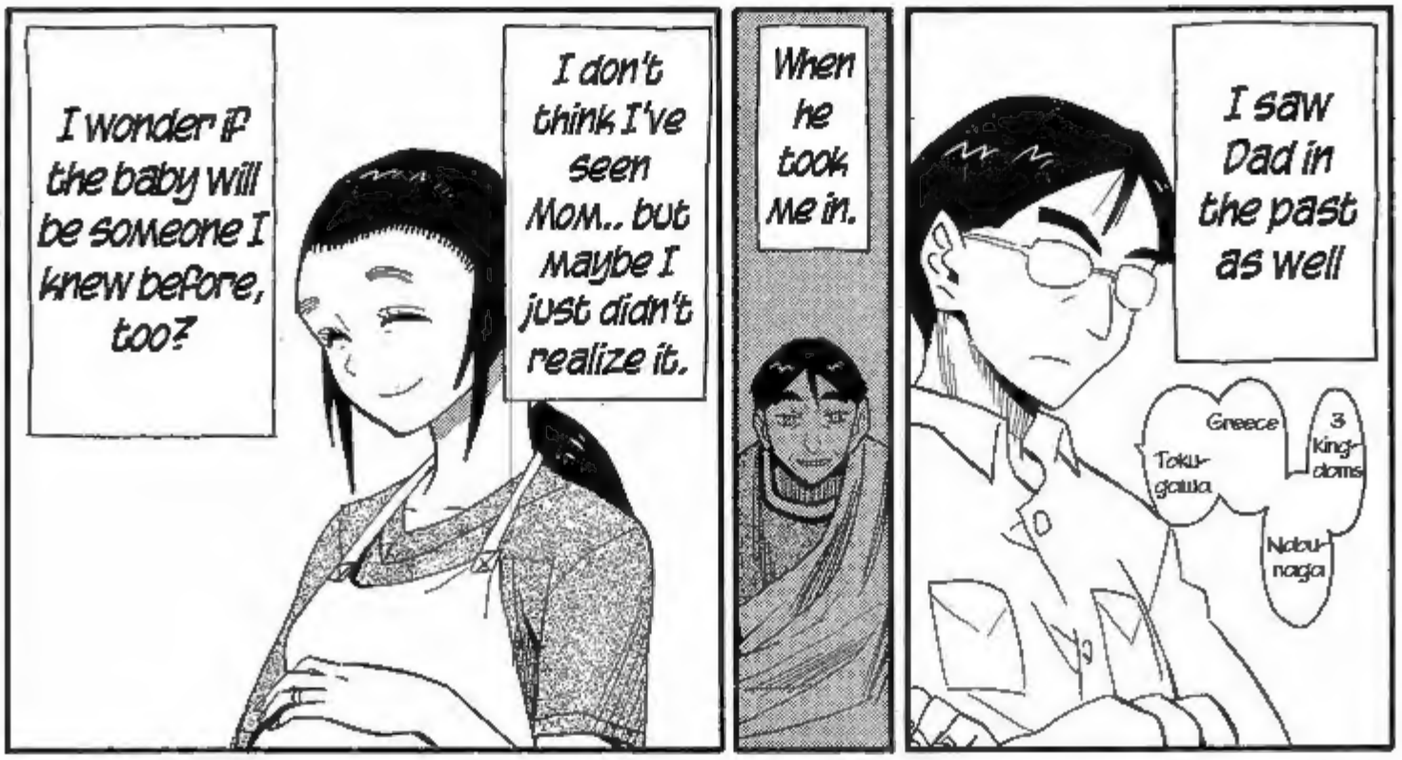
If it takes a MILLION years!

AND I'LL REND YOUR CURSE ASUNDER!!
I swear! I WILL FIND YOU!!

SPL-
-SSH
NNAH!!
Because of me.. East was.. Was what?
'Nother dream..
.....
...

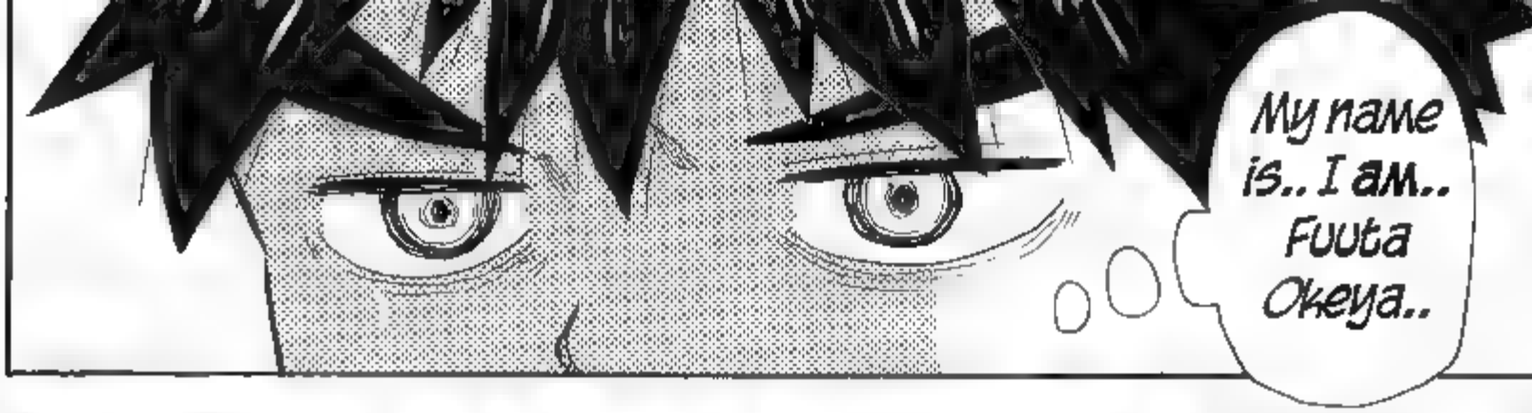
G'Mor-ning!
Going out to get wasted?
But I thought clubs are on break before the tests?
Oh, yeah, I'll be back late tonight.
Take a few of my volumes of "Napoleon: Age of the Lion" for history.
Toukichi Okeya (Age: 37)
Oh, good for you!
Sawa Okeya (Age: 36)
It's a study group, okay?
Not a chance.
Fuuta Okeya (Age: 14)


We're not even on that period!!
Everything you need to know, you can learn from manga!
That's a comic book!!


I wonder if the baby will be someone I knew before, too?
I don't think I've seen Mom.. but maybe I just didn't realize it.
When he took me in.
I saw Dad in the past as well
Greece
3 kingdoms
Toku-gawa
Nobu-naga

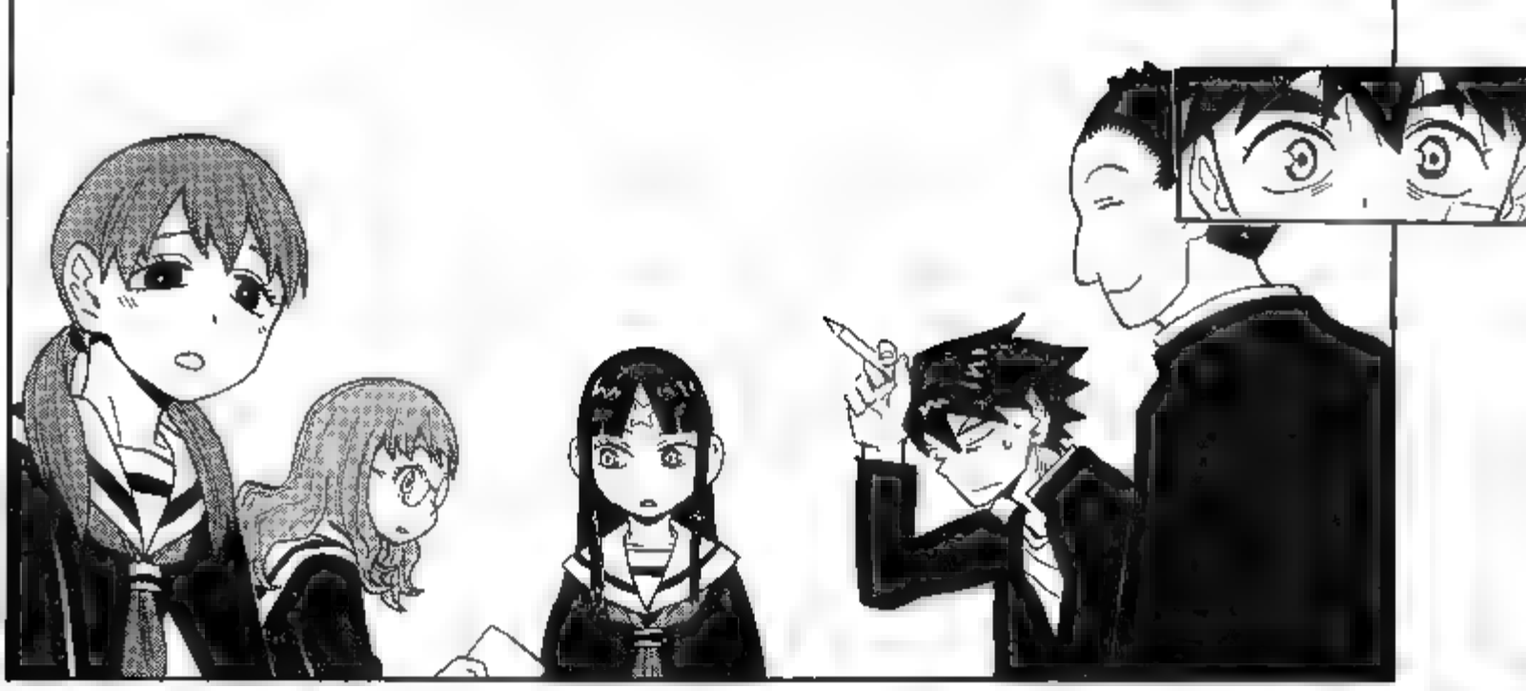
What do I care for him, long as I've my wine to tide me.
Bah.. It matters not, I suppose.
Although.. I can't remember his name or his face..
I know it was Vann's brother.. He sent all those killers..
I could do without another brother like THAT..

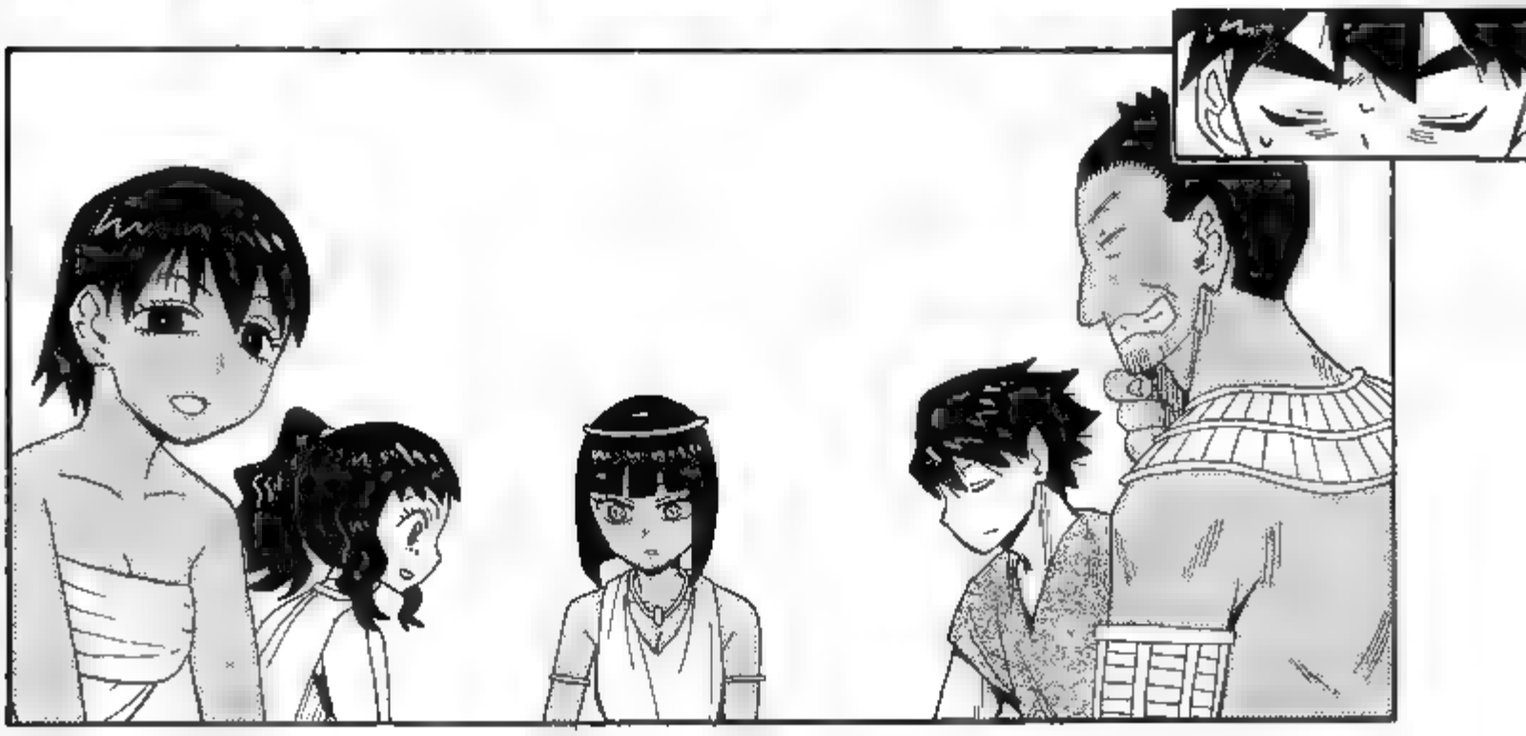
Say what now?
!
What are you talking about, son?
Huh?
That's only water, dear..
.....
I don't recognize this character..
I can hear you
Are you sure he's okay? After playing like an old man the other day..
You'll make yourself dizzy!
oop
Mas-ter!
Fuuta Okeya..
My name is Fuuta Okeya..
BRRRRRR


My name is.. I am.. Fuuta Okeya..

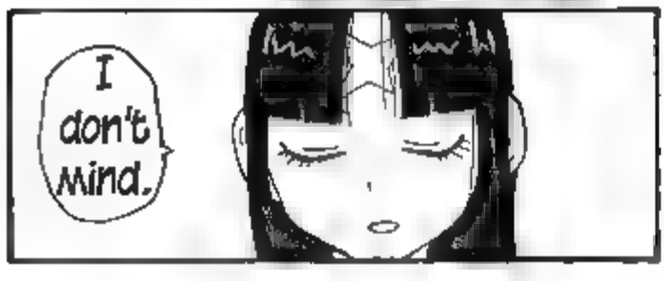
You seem pale..
Are you not well, Master?

Study Room A
図書館
No, this one's in potential form.
So X equals 5 here.
Turn to page 134..
Took ya long enough! I caught on months ago!!
You're racing to the bottom!!
I understand that I will never understand!!
Fuuta, no!!
I see.. Now I understand.
Really?
.....
This is never gonna help if you guys don't even try..
.....





Sorry if it makes you feel left out..
We kind of dragged you along
Yeah, pretty much, I'd say.


I don't mind.

Are you all usually together like this?
Don't wander off
I'll be right back.

Are you an' Fuuta goin' out or what?
Hangin' out after school
Whispering together

Actually, I was wonderin'..

SNAP
Does this give you a hint?

Oh My GOD! You idiot..
Tetsu!! You can't just ASK that..
Wh-Wh-What?
Oh, whoops. Was that bad?

So not a yes, but it's not a no..?
This might be one of those "it's complicated" things

Whoa! Uh, l-let's just forget I said anything..
Yipes

Hm-!?
.....
And they're them..
Gotta keep it straight..
I am Me,

Hello.. Fuuta.

Oh yeah?

If you should begin to lose yourself,
!
East?
I recommend your palm rather than a mirror.

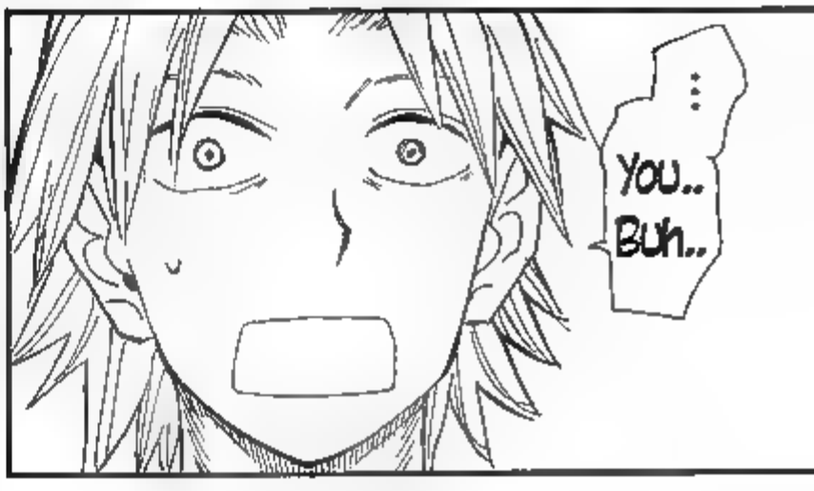
Well, she didn't really flip out until she saw the scar.
And I'm sure that would've just been a matter of time, right?
It's my fault that Kouko.. Recognized you.
I shouldn't have shown myself. I'm sorry.
Um,
Why are you..?
..East,
Did I do something bad to you?
Because of you?
父さん!My Father..!
But if I hadn't-
It's fine, already. Really.
Just forget about it..
..No. No, you didn't.
But.. Fortuna did.
!
You are not!!
You must'n't think that!!
Well, we're the same guy, though-

You must never forget
That you are your own, and have your own life!!
Here, now, you are Fuuta Okeya!
Fortuna is gone, he is the past!
...
What did I.. That is, Fortuna, do?
...
So.
Uh.. Okay. Sure.
That he tried to save me.
Fortuna's crime was only..
You know..
...

The first one to mistake you for Fortuna..
Was I.
I was glad to see you after so long, and forgot myself.
And.. I felt that, maybe, if you relived your pasts and learned more of Fortuna,
You would be able to rescue Kouko from herself.
What do you mean.. Rescue?
!
If you continue, you will succumb to the conciousness of one of your past selves.
?
No.. Um..
I'm.. Vann? No, wait.. Fone?
I was mistaken then, as you are now.
Your confusion is a symptom of your exhausted soul and psyche.
If one lacks a pressing impetus to live their own life, they cannot overcome these delusions.
You have to give this up, Fuuta!!
It's far too dangerous to spend any more time on your past lives!!

I don't wanna
Nope

You didn't even want this! You got dragged into it by force!!
How can you still say that?


...
You.. Buh..

What kind of trouble is she in?
Why'd you say you needed me to help Kouko?

Then.. Why?!
.....

Yeah, true.

She lives this present as if it were a continuation of that life.
The Koko from Mine, Rune, and Fortuna's time.
She's.. confused herself with Koko.

Thanks to one of these, right?

Yes, that's right..
So the problem is something like the attachments of her past lives, right?

The Spirit Circle!

..When I went to see my pasts before today.
It was kind of a "Whatever, I guess I'll just try it" feeling.
But y'know..

I'M gonna do this thing.
Right now, I'M really feelin' it.

I'll be stronger than Fortuna.. Stronger than all of them!!
I can handle it, East.

How do you expect me to have faith in that?!

Or by Flors.. Or by any one!!
POUND
I won't be taken again.. By Fone,
Or by Vann,

I think.. I believe you.
I really believe you!
You.. I..
I came here to stop you, and I'm leaving sure that you should carry on.
You really are some-thing else..
Talk about destinies, and all the stuff we went through..
It'd be nice if, once it's all over, maybe we'll look back,
Well, we'll see how it goes, right?
And just end up saying "heck with it, let's date" or something.
And.. Good luck.
Good bye for now, Fuuta.

Heard that, huh..
You, uh..
gulp

Not the-
KRRK
WHACK
Keep up that garbage and I'll throw you down the stairs again.
すた
すた

I wonder who you think will be joining you in it?
That's quite the lovely little fantasy

I'm such a child..
And what am I blushing for? Honestly..
.....
Is romance all these people think about?!
Bye!
See ya!
Good night!
Later
I'm glad East showed up when he did.. Things were getting a little crazy there.
He was right, somehow it just calms me down..
I'd swear I could feel those other Me's spreading and swirling up like ink into water..
My palm..
.....

But Fone had so much left un-resolved..
Vann and Flors lived long lives,
Espe-cially HIM..

DID YOU FORGET? IT'S JUST US IN HERE...
WHAT'S THIS "YOU" STUFF, BUDDY?

Let the past go, huh.. You ever hear the one about the pot and the kettle?

JUST CAN'T LET THE PAST GO, EITHER..
GETS PISSED OFF ALL THE TIME FOR NO REASON..
OR INSULT YOU
ALL SHE DOES IS HIT YOU
FORGET THAT BITCH
WHY SHOULD WE HELP HER? WHO GIVES A SHIT?
Yeesh

thanks
Oh, yeah.
Thanks,
Good call.
Anything to help, Master!
Oh, Master!
Don't forget to get the Milk!

Put a sock in it, already..

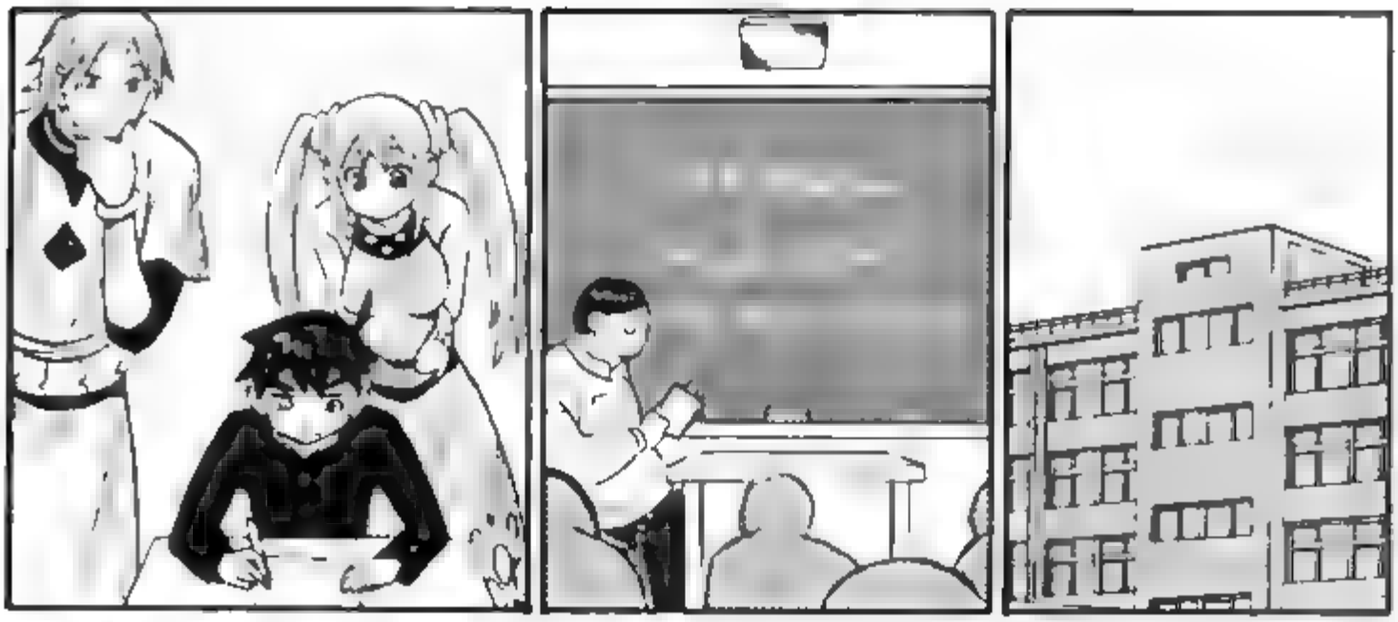
Ugh..
Oh..
Milk, and that's it!!
Found the drink.
I forgot about groceries and doubled back, that's all.
Bye.
Don't you live the other way?
Have a good night!
Like.. Forgetting who you're supposed to be?
Well.. You.. Do you ever get confused?
.. What.
One sec..
Hey.
And who exactly is that, I mean..
.....
And I always am.
... I am myself.

What's that supposed to mean?
I think they're nice enough, as people go.
Like Tetsu and the gang..
Then, what do see when you you look at everyone else?
Oh, I get it now..
They don't remind you of Alvol or Halara or anything?
So,
Not really.
It's not like they're the only people who I meet over and again.
It just doesn't inspire any special feelings in me.
If anything, it's only an idle curiosity to see what form they'll take each time.
After all, you were there from the start.
True. You could say that you're.. Special.
But.. When it's me..?
Not like that!!
You're special for her!
Isn't that nice, Master?

And stop putting silly ideas in Rune's head!
Good bye!
Are you still talking? Idiot!
I kind of think you're special too, Kou-
Kuh-hee...

But I just can't let it go.
I still can't tell if these are My Feelings for her, or Fortuna's care for Kiko...

I'll find you both,
And I'll find the truth!
For-tuna...
And spoil-ers...



Late
October

SLAP
Okay!
Let's do this.

Yes!
Good luck, Master.
See you soon.
Huh?
Wonder where I'll land next.
I'm pretty sure I'll land somewhere else.
I'm really not planning on dressing in order of history.
Could I even end up in the future?
Huh?
Anyway, it's not like I'm a ghost.
Anyway, it's not like I'm a ghost.
Huh?

The Fifth Life

Hou-tarou

Well well, Good of you to join us..

Had us worried there, friend.

If you hadn't woken up, there'd go our ransom.

And we wouldn't want that!

Hm?

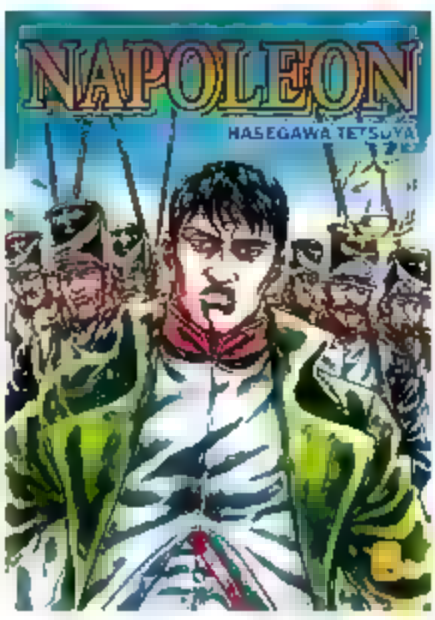
✤今度は日本が舞台…いきなりピンチ!?

Spirit Circle will resume in the Sept 30 issue

Dura Sez:

For lack of space, I subbed in the subject matter rather than titles, but Dad mentions by name the following accurate and unembellished study aids:

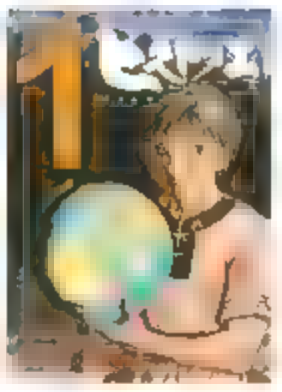
"Napoleon", specifically the second half, at left



Beyond The Heavens

Hyougemono

Historie



Kagemusha
Tokugawa Ieyasu

Fuuta spits out a "PAZUDORA" when he gets smacked, a reference to popular mobile game Puzzle and Dragons. I think.

吾妻先生

スピリットサークル 魂環
Spirit Circle

Chapter 16
Houtarou
Part 2

SATOSHI MIZUKAMI

水上悟志（ミズカミサトシ）

I told 'em, I told 'em!

It's already Midday, and no sign of 'em!

They're late!

You told 'em, didn't you?

.....

Just so you know? You're not getting any ransom for me.

Oh, no?

I remember now.. These guys grabbed me, and..

I think I can see straight again..

Did he say, ransom?

Hmm.

Oog..

Yeah, I got set up, all right..

sigh

Mys-tery man, huh..

Helpful guy in a black hood said so.

I have it on good authority that Lord Furan will pay dearly for your safety.

And don't try and tell me we got the wrong Houtarou, not with that scar!

Hey!

The hell you want?!

What?

You got some-thin' else to say?

We're conductin' business! Get lost!

Beat it, ass-hole!

That their man?

What's all this?

?

FWP

WHUCK!

FLAP!

SHLUCK!

SHLUCK!

SHWOOM

SON OF A BITCH!

FPP

SBLSHHH

Tmtmtmt

Or the unknown benefactor who hired a ninja to rescue you?! Come on!!

Like, what about the mystery man who sicced those bandits on you?!

Don't you have anything else to bring up?!

Is that it?!

Yeah? Thanks, then.

That's a big help

'Cause I really don't know.

None of it?!!

Well, maybe you can tell me,

All of it?!!

I kinda know already. Like, all of it.

Thing is,

.....

hyeh

Oh.. Right

.....

You're, uh.. coming with me?

I wouldn't be much of a body-guard otherwise!

I'll keep ya safe!

Time for that later, of course.

D'you live nearby? You ought to hole up and recover.

So you have the place to yourself out here?

Yeah.

Hey, forget about it.

Just doin' my job, right?

That tea?

Just hot water.

Least I could do.

It's not much, but make yourself at home.

Where do you know my client from?

How about the hooded figure?

What'd they snatch you for?

So?

Odd duck, this one..

Pretty talkative for a ninja.. Friendly type, too.

Sure can fight, though..

Hooo-

...tarooou

taroou!

HM?

Don't you guys investi-gate stuff for a living? You could just-

Hey, one at a time.

ど ど ど

Hou-tarou!

Prin-cess?!

Y..You know better than to come out here dressed down like that..

WHUM

HOOF-!

SNUG

Thank good-ness!!

You're safe!

What about everyone at the estate? Or Kajirou?

Well, you say that, but..

I was so worried.. If you were gone, I'd be all alone!!

Be quiet!!

And you're my only real family!!

I don't care about any of them!

You're my brother, Hou-tarou..

They can rot, I say!!

SPT

Prin-cess!!

Hello there, again.

Oh.

For real?

Bro-ther?

Well done, Sir Jinkurou.

You have my thanks.

That Master Houtarou has been returned.

It is my pleasure to report, Princess,

.....

Prin-cess Rihama

I value your patro-nage,

Sir Jinku-rou.

I may yet have need of your services,

Then I had the right idea on our mystery man in the black hood, too..

The more pressing issue is..

Thought so...

So if she's the one who bailed me out,

If you're gonna have a moment, get off me first..

nrkk

I can't breathe

.....

.....

How many times have we told you?!

What are you doing here again?!

RIHAMA

"

IL IL IL

Hello, Lord Kaji-rou

tsk

This is the man who saved Houtarou.

...As you say.

I see you made it out alive.

Kajima.

I had heard you were taken by bandits?

tsk

I am Jinkurou, at your service.

He's proven quite reliable

It seems he will be staying here for some time.

Please, come closer.

Mister Jinkurou.

..I see.

I must thank you for rescuing our favored smith.

Take it, then be on your way.

!

shf

What is the meaning of this?

.....

peek

You choose poorly, ronin.

You will regret this.

!

I cannot accept such a sum, Milord.

Anyone would have done the same in my place..

You. Kajima.

We won't spare a ransom for a lowly smith.

Oh, my. Of course, brother dear.

You mustn't worry Father any further.

Rihama! We're leaving.

By your leave.

So do take care.

He tried to pay me off to stay out of the way.

..Why's he so cold to his own brother?

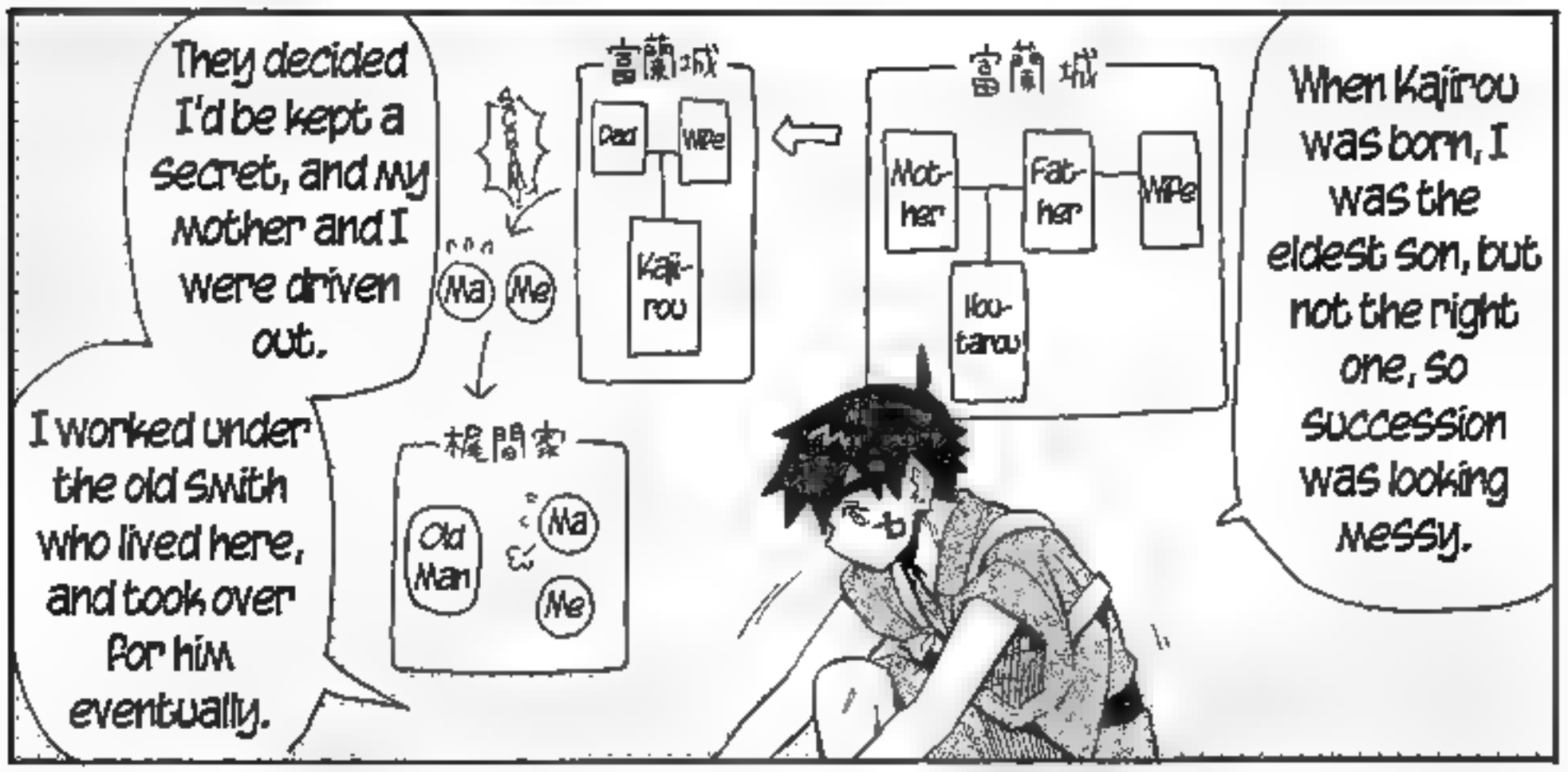
Aah, that makes sense.

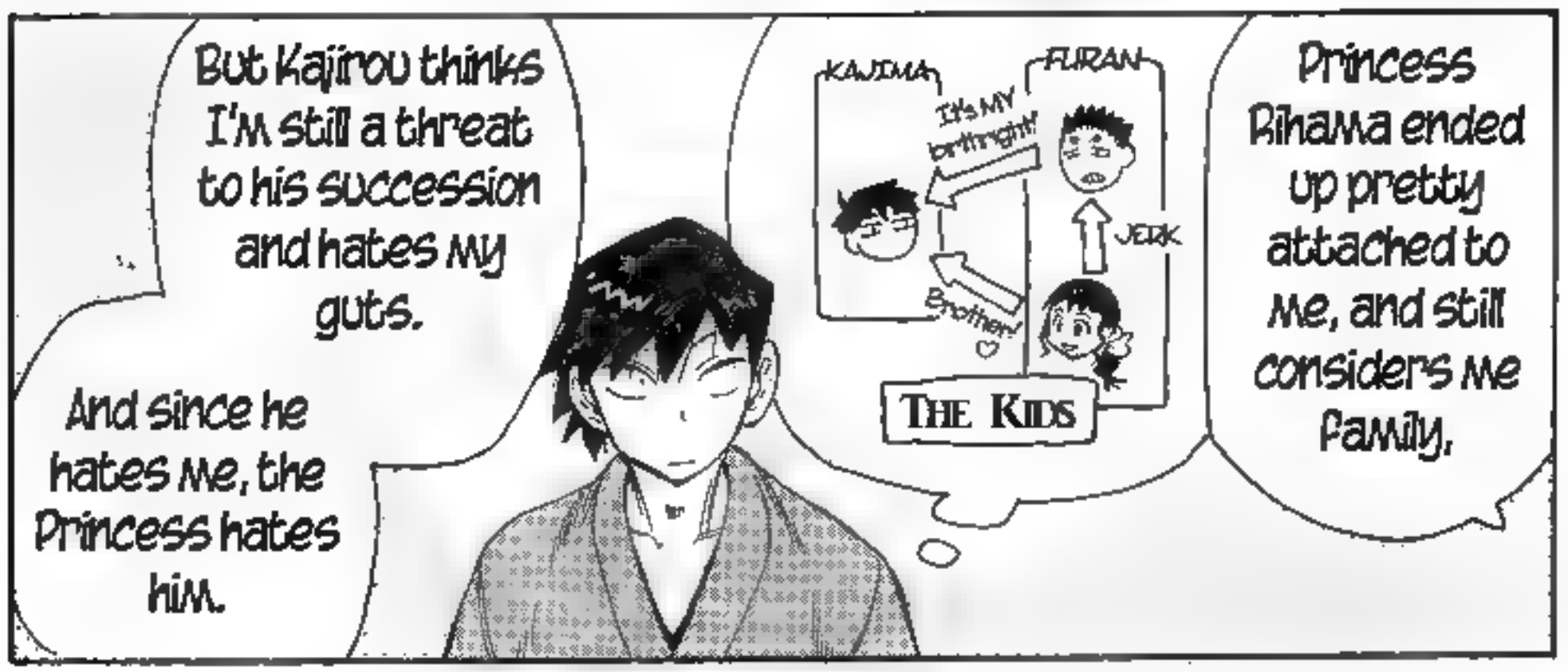
But it's under his clothes right now.

There goes the man in black.

The Kajima name, and my trade, are passed down from my mother.

They're the two legitimate children of the Furan royalty, but I was born from a mistress.




But Kajirou thinks I'M still a threat to his succession and hates my guts.
And since he hates me, the Princess hates him.
KAJIMA
FURAN
It's MY birthright!
JERK
Brother!
THE KIDS
Princess Rihama ended up pretty attached to me, and still considers me family.

If so, you're my brother, right?

Are you Hou-tarou?

U P-princess?!

But it was when she was young. She showed up out of the blue, and..

Dunno

How'd they find you?

If they both learned the truth, you weren't much of a secret.

Sake?

Sure, you're on!

Hey,

You a drinking man?

..Heh.

I barely knew the guy, but..

He did good by me, and I like the work he showed me to do.

My mark used to bother her, so we were distant to the end, but Gramps didn't pay it any mind.

Mom and the old man passed of illness.

We make some fine swords.

Drinking with him made the taste that much sweeter.

I was grilling lunch when someone behind me said, "let me have some of that"

I've just been wandering around since then, until Princess Rihama found me.

My old bosses landed in real hot water with the Tokugawa, so I got out before things went south.

Guess she'd slipped out for another stroll.

But the atmosphere felt like more than just us two that night.

There was no one else,

Despite having just met, we talked long into the night.

Never forget your place.
And you are nothing but a bastard peasant.
I am the true son of the Furan

Why is it you still hate me?
I like being a switch, I don't need to be rough...
I know you're the real son, so you can keep the Furan already.
Kaji-rou..
I think you're the one who's confused here

They're pros. Not like the thugs from today.

Take this. I need your help.

What, me?!

Outside. Two of them.

Sigh

!!

Jiro

They won't expect you to fight back, and it'll give us the opening to hit 'em first.

Okay. Got it!

They don't think you can use a sword.

Or they'd have sent more people.

SHHF

PAT

!?

CHIIINNG

WOOSH!

ORAAA!!

!!

AIIIIING

!!

Run! Go!!

No good!

He blocked it?!

Not a chance!!

WHUMP

How do I get Houtarou away..

Shit!

KANG

From above!

He'll strike low!!

STAND!!

MOAN!!

FOR
PEACE
HOW'S
EVERY FOR
OVER
SO
QUICK?!

PHEW!!

It had to be why were under the princess could give
Hey... Why'd you turn down Ingrou's offer today anyway?

Forget nonsense, they were coming to us in the ground
Those guys Mean business

When you glanced back at us, I got the feeling you were sizing up which one's more worth money.

Sorry, kind of dumb, but

Hey! How about these? More like bullet, right?

Oh, that. It was... Well, you know...

Ah, yes. That. Yes.

You think it's right to do it for money?

It's like a big snake under the

Yes. Save herself. Natural. She's done a hundred times.

As soon as our backs touched, it took me.

I had a surprise attack that night.

It was somehow similar to you. Actually! Should have worn...

Why don't we...

スピリットサークル 魂環
Spirit Circle

Chapter 17
Houtarou
Part 3

A TIME
WILL
COME
FOR
DIFFICULT
CHOICES...

[ぴよぴよ]
★水上悟志短編集Vol.3
[宇宙大帝ギンガサンダーの冒険]
★新装版にて復活
[エンジェルお悩み相談所]
好評発売中!!

SATOSHI MIZUKAMI
水上悟志
ミズカミ サトシ

Hallooo

Is anyone home?

Any-one?

KAT KAT

I'm looking for a Houtarou Kajima!

ガラッ

Yes?

That's me.

Mn?

How may I help you?

Do you need a sharpening today?

Par-don?

I come for the head of the menace, Houtarou Kajima!!

I am known as Raita Ohba-yashi!!

UM.

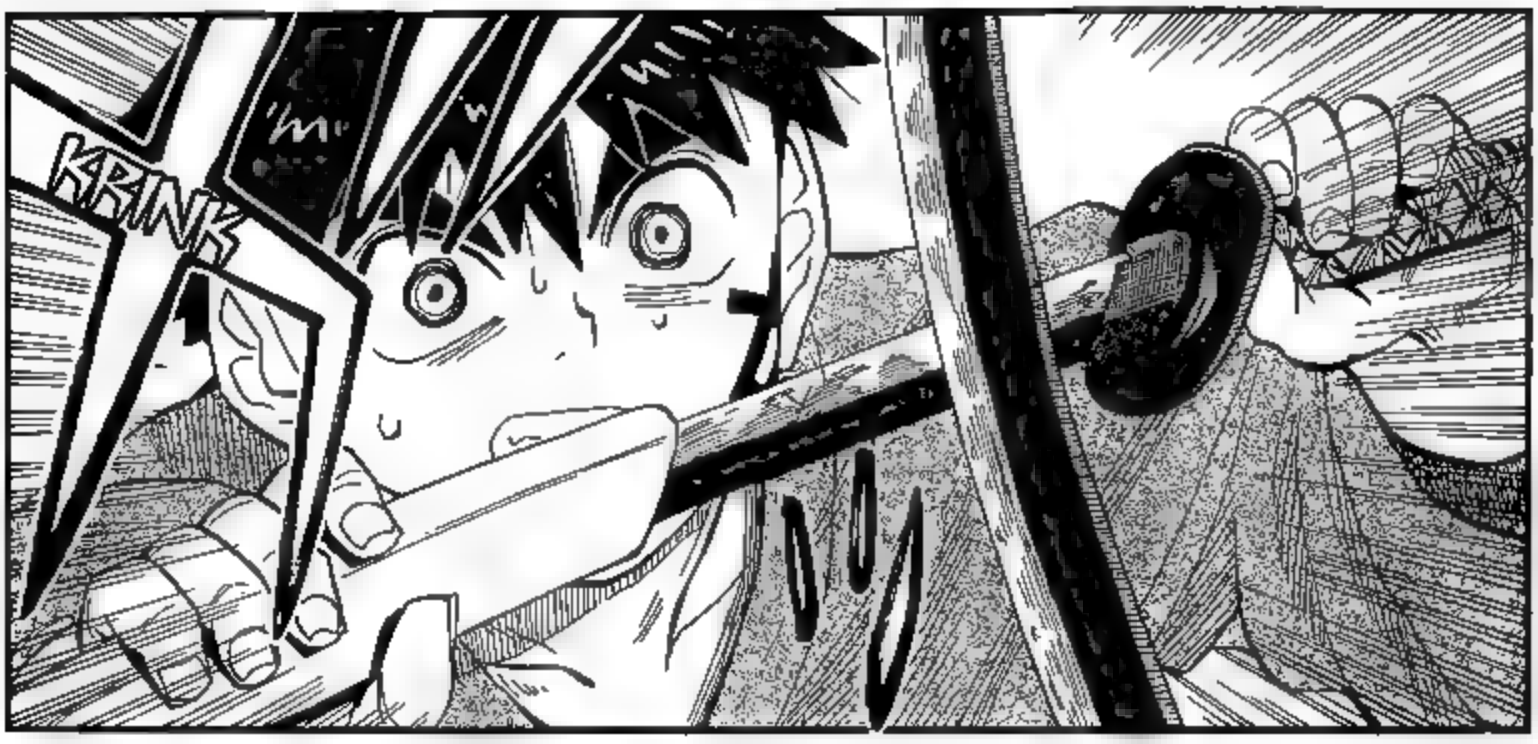
CLINK

You are unarmed? In that case, here.

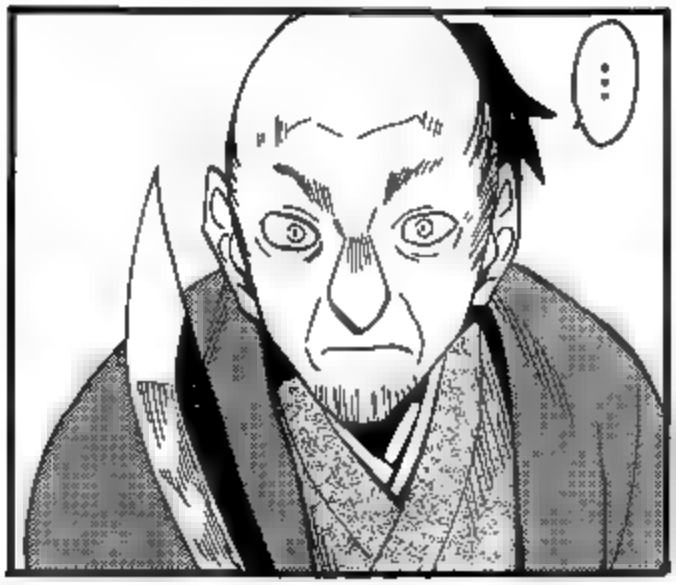
I'll let you have the big one.

HWAAA ?!

ドドド


KRINK

!
shunk


...

Polite of him to introduce himself, though..
Close one! But isn't it a little early for assassins today?! It's barely noon!

.....

AAA

HA

IGH!

WOK

SKOOD

Oh, Jin-kurou..

Yeah, I'm okay.

You good?

I'm back.

Hey.

I see you've been making friends again.

And it's barely even noon..

Well, drag 'im in.

Eh?

.....

He's awake.

G'Mor-ning.

We wanted to ask you a few things before we kill you.

Really? You must be new at this assassin thing.

Yeah, yeah. Name?

Raita Ohbayashi. He introduced himself.

Craven DOG! How dare you strike from behind!!

And I am a warrior!

Raita Ohbayashi!

I am a proud Furan retainer,

Bite your tongue!

That's what he told you, right? Kajirou?

"A traitor is plotting the downfall of our House", or something..

How many times must I say-

And yet, here you are doing the dirty work..

Seems shady

I see it has been quite an eventful morning.

Princess!

Houtarou Sir Jinkurou.

You're kidding, right?

How did you know?!

Is he a moron?

That was quick

Oh, that's good, then!

Yeah, he's a moron

No?

They truly have taken you hostage?!

Good god!!

Princess?! But why..

Pray, forgive these men.

You have no reason to hunt nor hurt them.

I fear he holds me too dear..

My brother has spread wicked rumors of them out of jealousy.

These two are my dear companions.

Okay then..

You may untie him now.

Go on, Houtarou.

180°

Ah-ha! Well!! I see, I see!

I will explain your absence to my brother.

You are to instruct these two, especially Sir Houtarou, in the art of the sword.

And now, Sir Ohbayashi, I have a mission for you.

High-ness! Your will be done!

Wait, what?

Uhh..

And now, I think I must take my leave.

Come on, now..

I'm sure you'll be fine

You could learn a thing or two

He may not be the brightest, but he's strong and proud

A princess should guard her heart with more care.

Good-ness..

There they go again..

Very well, It shall be my plea-sure

It seems I will continue to rely upon your service, Sir Jinkurou.

What do you mean, loftier?

Mar-riage?

Her hand in marriage must be entrusted to one of loftier stature..

You think they're..

Wait, what?

She is a princess, after all?

Yeah, right..

Oh..

What? Isn't it obvious?

At some point, they'll have to let it go..

Yeah.. I guess that's the way it is, huh.

We swung wooden swords all day

And so it went

And we only saw a few at a time

Of course, that wasn't often

And real ones at night

These guys are some seriously part-time washed-up shinobi.

Your brother's pretty cheap

Nothing but chumps for weeks.

The rest was riff-raff and common thugs

Besides, the pros only showed up at first

Do a few jobs, get in good, earn your place... then eat and get fat.

Oh, sure.

Do they even actually have those?

Never thought I'd get used to this

Welp

Which sort of freaked me out

I await the day we cross blades in glorious battle!

GWA HA HA!

You have talent!

Mister Ohba-yashi said

I don't need the Furan. I don't need any of What's yours.

Why don't you get it?

Kaji-rou..

I never wanted to be no damn samurai

I'M just a smith

Talent, shma-lent.

To see her smile.. to make her happy.

I would do anything

My sister.

Houtarou!

The only thing here for me is the Princess..

CLOP

CLIP

Bit of a shock, I'll admit.

But no one told me to expect a woman.

I knew the shogun was sending someone,

I am Iwana.

Iwana, you say?

You know, I had a fish named-

Does my gender present some problem?

No, never mind.

.....

I do hope you won't take offense.

I'm simply concerned one of your gen..

General temperament, yes? May not be able to follow

When we speak on important matters

.....

I lead now.

My Father's time is past.

Where is the old Head?

..And will you speak for the Furan?

Per-haps?

An elder bro-ther,

Is there no one else deserving of the seat? For instance..

You are the succesor?

NEVER SPEAK SUCH FOOLISH-

I HAVE NO BRO-THER!!

The shogunate has sent me to simply allay their concerns regarding your position.

And then, there are the rumors of unseemly relations with bandits and ruffians of a dire sort..

That perhaps Lord Jinkurou is of.. unsuitable temper-ament?

I simply wish to relay that there are.. *concerns.*

pht

Young

May we count on your cooperation in this endeavor,

Mas-ter?

Nnr..

It has been proposed that your holdings may better serve this country under our *direct* supervision.

I AM THE ONE TRUE SUCC-ESSOR!!

NEVER CALL ME THAT!!

WE WILL CRUSH THE TOKU-GAWA!!

KILL HER! KILL HER NOW!

Way.

No way!

Dude.

When she lept forwards with a blade, taking us by surprise,

And took him hos-tage.

Not quite

Lord Kajirou had barely finished speaking,

So they seriously killed the emmisary?

And had horses brought for her and her men

She led us outside the castle gate

So long as even one worthless, irresponsible, warmongering leader like yourself lives on,
This world will never know peace!!
You should have grown out of such childish displays long ago.
You are a fool!!

Lord Kaji-rou!

Hiya!

ドカラ…ドカラ…

This castle will burn, and *you* have lit the torch!!

Know this!!

It all happened this morning.

I intend to stand with the Furan in this conflict.

What of you, sirs?

...My fee was not meant to include this level of service.

I don't plan on going to war,

So I'll be taking my leave.

Money, is it...

I suppose that was all that brought you here.

o

I value my life far more.

I'm no warrior, as you know. I'll pack my things and leave tonight.

And the Kajima have, after all, long enjoyed the patronage of the Furan.

Would you not repay their favor?

And you, Sir Houtarou?

Your skill would be most welcome.

That is unfortunate.

I pray you decide quickly.

...There is not much time. Armies may march on our holdings as soon as the morn.

.....

..Do take care, Sir Jinkurou.

And now,

I must see to preparations.

Besides, this helps you out too.

No more hired killers in the middle of the night.

..I wouldn't worry about it.

No matter what Kajirou did, this was Tokugawa's plan from the get-go.

It's obvious.

Yeah. In that case..

They can't win this fight.

The Furan are done.

Take the Princess away from here.

I've got a new job for you.

Your payment will be her company.

I know how she feels about you. If you ask, she will come.

I'm saying never mind my brother,

But elope with my sister. Get her away.

What are you-

Provided she makes it out alive, and even that's not certain.

Or wind up a pretty little pet for the Tokugawa, the spoils of war..

Here, she'll be married off to some pig she's never met,

You must make her happy.

I beg you. No matter what else,

I was thinking the same thing all along.

You don't have to convice me.

Well, honestly, pretty much since the start of Ohbayashi's story,

What can I do?

Thank you, my friend.

And come with us.

You can forget the Furan,

Today, I swore I could die for her

But to-night,

I have a nasty feeling I just might.

But I'm ready to give prayer a try.

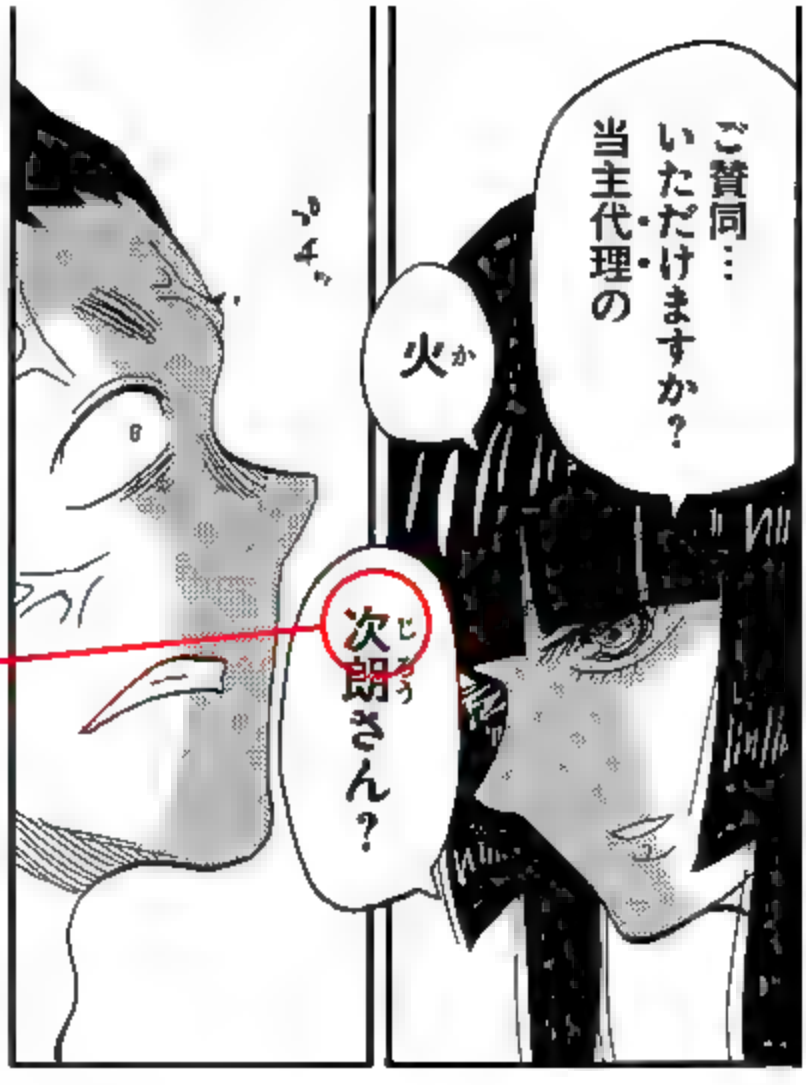
TWO BRAVE SOULS ON A [SUICIDE] MISSION!!

I've never been religious,

To be continued in the November 30th issue

"FUN" FACTS

Iwana's line was originally "Master Ka-Jirou", emphasizing the "Jirou". Kajirou's "Ji" is written with a character meaning "second" or "next". Iwana uses it to twist the knife again on the fact that he isn't the firstborn. He seems to be kind of hung up on that:



(That's another real line. Maybe it comes across stronger in Japanese)

スピリットサークル 魂環
Spirit Circle

WHAT OBSTACLES WILL THEY FACE?!

Chapter 18
Houtarou
Part 4

SATOSHI MIZUKAMI
水上悟志 ミズカミサトシ

物語紹介 ◉霊視ができる風太は転入生・鉱子に前世からの仇敵と察知され、あと1回殺すと宣言される。2人が持つスピリットサークルで、過去生を幾つか視て、鉱子と殺しあっていた因縁や、周囲の人たちとの繋がりは判明した。風太は、全ての元凶はスピリットサークルを作った自分の過去生フルトゥナにあると疑う。そして今回、江戸初期の日本人・方太朗で大名の嫡子だった過去生を視るのだが …!?

This castle will fall before long.. We have to hurry!

I have to save Princess Rihama.. My sister!!

THE TOKUGAWA CLAN MARCHES ON THE FURAN!

A patrol

Wait.

Okay, let's move.

...

GLD

We still have time.

Easy. We let them pass.

Too many to silence..

Three men..

Are you sure this is the spot?

This is it. The Princess slips out through here all the time.

I doubt it.

No one? Are you sure there won't be guards or anything?

Some kind of secret passage that no one knows about.

She showed me once.

If he knew how she got out to see me all the time, he'd have put a stop to it.

The old lord might've known, but Kajirou definitely doesn't.

Shit! Some one's here!

Three of them.. No time to-!

!!

SNZ

Guess so.

Ssh!

My word, they actually came..

You see? Did I not tell you so?

What are you doing here?!

And Onba-yashi?!

Puh-Prin-cess?!

I bid you all good fortune.

Sir Onba-yashi will accom-pany you.

I am the princess' nurse, Matsu.

I would ask that you take her from here, and keep her safe.

Master Houtarou. Master Jinkurou.

But.. The battle..

I am old, and my body weak.

I would only slow you.

I will stay.

Wait.. But what about you?

We've said our good-byes.

She's been crying..

It's time to go.

Prin-cess.

Sir Jinkurou.

I leave her in your hands, Sir Ohbayashi. Be well.

Yes, Lady Matsu! On my life!!

I was sure that you would,

And I will gladly accom-pany you.

If you will, Lady,

I've come to spirit you away, that we may live on together.

Hi!

We go!!

Now, then.

Thank you. I will guard her well.

...?

I pray for your safety as well, Master Houtarou..

Matsu was your care-taker as well.

Before Kajirou was born,

Hou-tarou,

...

Do you remember her?

She's one of the very few who knew of you in the castle.

!

_SOB

...

We have to survive.

Hou-tarou,

I don't have much faith in my own words.

We will.

Yeah.

As I was patrolling the castle, I came upon Lady Matsu, who asked that I escort the Princess.

...

So what happened to putting your life on the line for the clan?

大林雷太(おおばやし・らいた)…富嶋家に仕える武士。剣術指南をしており、剣の腕はたつ。しかし、若殿で嫡子の火次朗に嘘を吹き込まれ、方太朗を討ちに来たり、その際は堂々と正面から来るなど頭の方がちょっと…の所あり。

I kinda wish we'd gotten to see it

I must say, however, what a place for a secret passage..

To safeguard the Princess is to guard the Furan. I accepted.

ROAAR

WAAGH

Yaaaa

It's begun.

Already?

So soon..

They must've had forces standing by from the start.

Seems like they're the most warlike of all.

This is the end of the Furan.

Kajirou.. You really were a fool...

..So long, Dad.

You too, Kajirou..

...

...

FWAOOOSH

The new lord's gone COMP-letely Mad!!

God! Tis' all ablaze!

HA! HA HA!

WA HA HA HA

AAH HA HA HA HA HA!!

Vann..

If only Ser Vann had remained to take the seat of head..

I dare say 'tis the end of the Flantyrs..

I'll never give up the Flantyr to you!!

I hear you in there! Broo-thee-er!!

He's going in?!

Hey, wait! It's dang-erous!

SNAP

CRASH

Va-nn?!

Where? Where is he?!

ドクン

BROO-THEE-ERR!!

snrrkk

Just a dream...

Shouldn't you sleep?

Ready to go?

It was just a little.

Dude, you were on watch.

Oh, I did.

Hard to say.

See anything, Jinkurou?

Too much Mist from the falls. Guess it'll help cover us up too, though.

I worked for some rich family, and Princess Rinama was their daughter.

It was somewhere far away, and I was kinda like the help.

ゴゴゴ…

Yeah? Me too.

Yer own

I had the wierdest dream..

【高麗火次郎】方太郎のまたが正妻の息子ゆえ跡継ぎに。しかし方太郎に嫉妬。だびたび刺客を送って命を狙っているため、妹の晴兵には嫌われている。その前世は中世欧州でフ…タがヴァンだった頃、家を没落させたその弟領主。

She didn't know what to do with herself, so we took a voyage to see a famous oracle.

...

Since we came from other sides of the tracks, y'know?

The Princess was in love with me, but I treated her more like a little sister, I guess.

She really loved you, right?

Was the Princess really okay with that? In the dream?

I hit the road.

So after you two got hitched,

I figured that would be for the best,

..And that was that.

She told us that you'd probably end up marrying the Princess.

Some-thing came over me

With those words

You were good to her.

Sure she was.

Rose up inside of me.

An odd feeling of guilt and regret

wrssh..

Nh-

Nnnn

JO

wssshh

FWND

H !

they're close!

Hor-ses!!

ND-D

wrsshh

ND ND-D

!!

KRETS

WHOCK

LOOK OUT!!

THINK

They found us!!

NRR...

Faster! Move in!!

ドドドド

There they are!

Ohba-yashi!!

Hold your fire!!

You'll hit the Prin-cess!

We must capture her un-harmed!!

...!!

We'll stop them here!!

Sir Jinkurou! See to the Prin-cess!!

GO!!

No! Not Wit-

You have to.. Rihama!!

Plea-se!!

Bro-ther..!!

HOUTIA-
I ROU!!
SWEAR
IT!!
Wai..
!
No Matter what!!
Yeah..
ドドド
ハッハッ

WHI-HI-HI-HIINNY

What's got into the horses?!

!?

Hey!

Whoa!!

Holy shit, dude!

His cry spooked them..?!

...!?

RRR-AAAGH!!

Hou-tarou!

Let's do this!!

Get out of our way!!

Dawn..

KLINNG

-TAK

WHDD.

YOU SHALL NOT PASS!!

A pity, then..

Their skill is impressive.

Quite the pair..

The age of the samurai has come to an end.

That for this world,

Now it's be gone.

Your time is over.

5

YEAAAAAH!!

WHI-HI-N

WHAM!!

EEAAH!!

Get OFF Me!!

Insol ent-!

!!

Houta-rou!!

Whup

ズリ

ズリ

石神静子(コルコ)…ラータと過去生で因縁があり、彼の輪廻転生を断とうと心でいる。神官の娘ストナ、魔女、占い師ロカでそれぞれに因縁を深めて、今回は徳川方の女使者・岩城として生きる。前回火次朗を挑発し戦を演出。

No! He's all alone! Too many men..

The gun's ruined!

Shit.. The river!

ポン

Hou-ta-rou!!

hgk
hhgh
whe-
eze
koff
khack
gasp
nff
Puff
Ga-
sp..
I get the feeling..
SOMe-thing about her..
NnhF..
HnF
Pant
Haff

HNF

HFF

That we've Met before

HAH

HHN

And so,

As if a long awaited reckoning had come.

And faced each other with grim satisfaction,

We took up our blades

You know something...

Hey there, Stranger.

It's good to see you again.

I'm sure we fought like that, falling and rolling, for a long, long time.

All I knew was that I had to keep her away from Rihana.

I don't remember much else

I am sure she was no different, accompanying me in the trance.

And yet,

My limbs refused to tire, even to the end.

Finally, a terrible roaring grew nearer and nearer..

HUH HUH HUH

ドドド

スピリットサークル 魂環
Spirit Circle

Chapter 19
Houtarou
Part 5

WITH SUCH GRIEVOUS INJURIES... WHERE CAN HE GO?

SATOSHI MIZUKAMI
水上悟志
ミズカミ サトシ

Paradox

R-U-M-B-L-L-E-E

Ghn..

Hh..
Ah..?

Healing takes time.
gip
Well, you're not out of the woods yet, so take it easy.

.....

And here I was sure you were a goner!
Oh!

桶屋風太(フ)
た天才科学者
の方太朗。大タ

You.. Stub-born..

...

Her..!!

Ur..

You'll open your wounds.

That's enough.

Ngk.. Rr..

Gr..

Uh!

Well, from the looks of you,

I don't think you can move, regard-less.

In case you didn't know, you're in pretty rough shape.

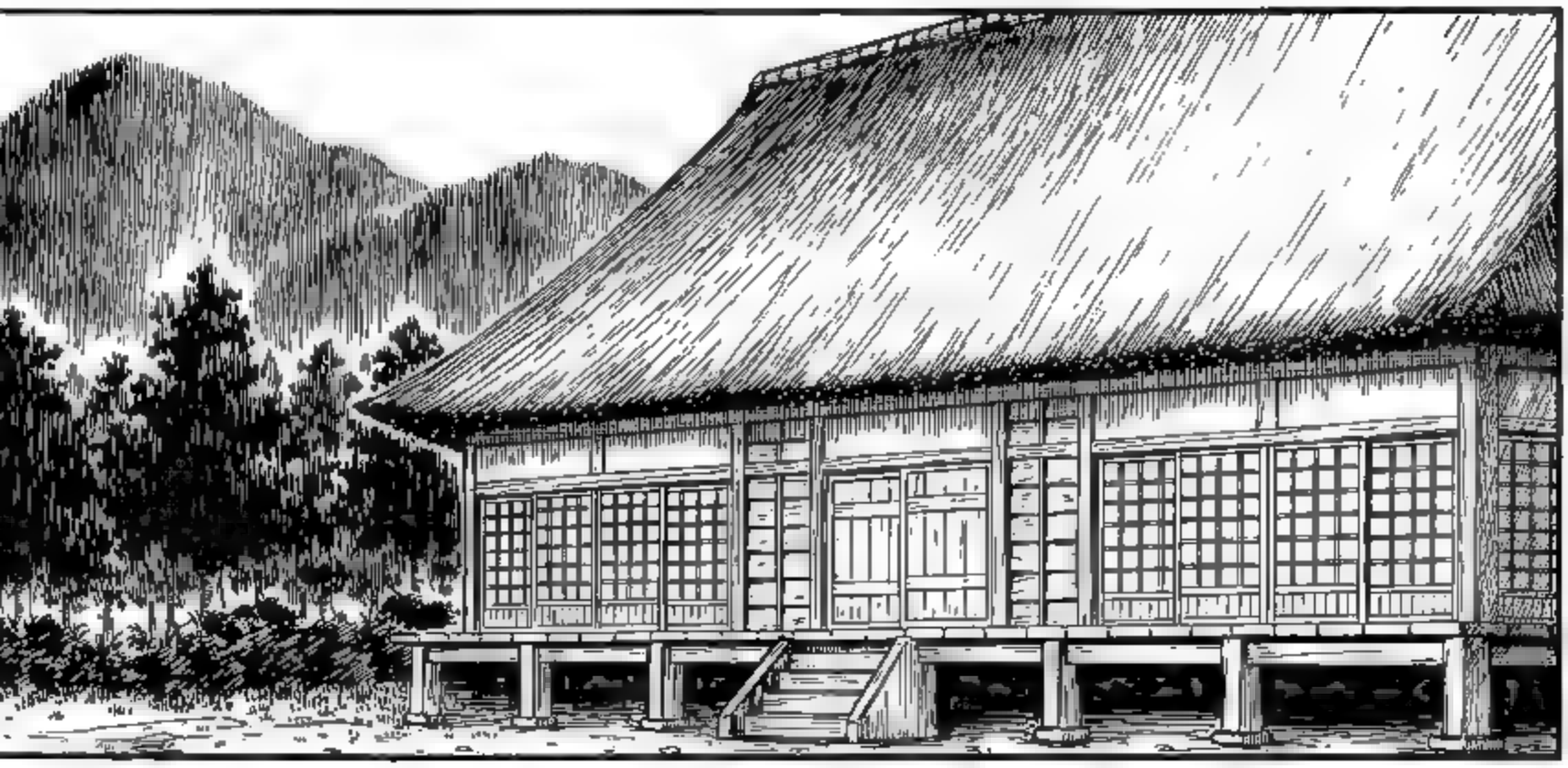
!!

She's barely left your sides since then.

She found you two in that mudslide and insisted we help.

You owe Akari your thanks.

you...
thank..
oh..



Toku-
gawa's
hounds
feed can't
their even
selves?
Aaah
Say
"aah"

I'm just not used to using my right hand, see?

Shut up, you feckless flunky.

For a pet dog!

I'M the flunky? Big words..

How dare you.

高山大樹（ダイキ）：フータの親友で歴史部所属の優等生。中世欧州時代はヴァンやスティールと共に暮らしたグラスという生真坊主だった。その後■カ（ローコ）の父のアルボルという金持ちに。今回はまた坊主みたい!?

I'M sure you can tell me, you murd-ering bitch!!

So, Mister righteous, how did those swords you sharpen get dull?!

Y-yeah! Just kidding! All over now,

Okay?

!!

It's okay, we're not really mad!!

Please Don't fight..

sniffle

I'm sorry. Thank you for your kindness and aid thus far.

Head Priest..

glug

Keep shouting and you'll reopen your wounds, you know?

Lively today, aren't we?

Now.

It's been some time since you came here,

And I've heard before what brought you here, more or less,

But there's something I still don't under-stand.

?

So why do you hold such resent-ment?

Surely the price in blood you've paid already was enough to put an end to things?

You two just happened to be fighting for different sides,

And had never met before.

He makes tools of war to sow misfortune and chaos across the land.

She's one of Tokugawa's servants who came to destroy the Furan.

Nah..

Do you feel such loyalty to the Furan? Hou-tarou.

It didn't sound that way to me.

No...

...

Is it the black-smiths of the world that you hate?

Iwana,

You two may as well have died that day.

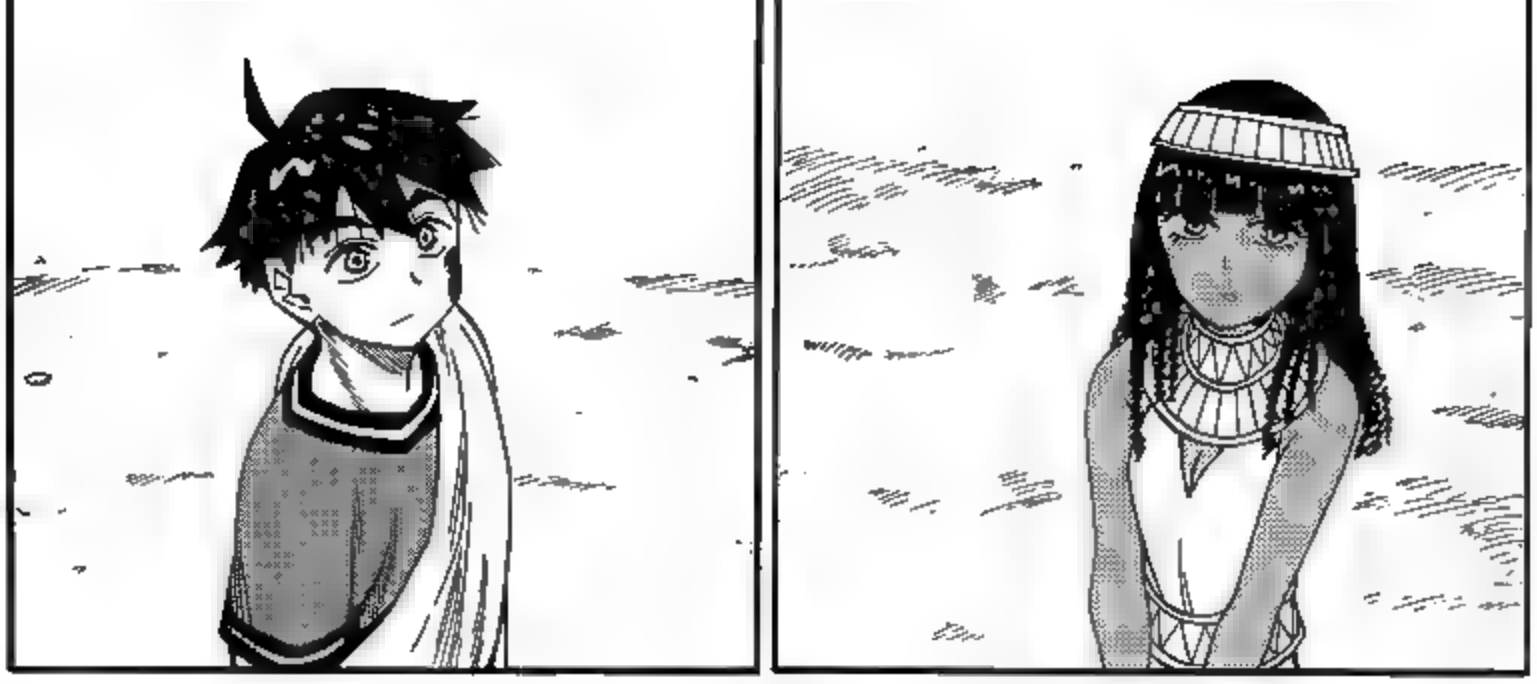
Give it up, why don't you?

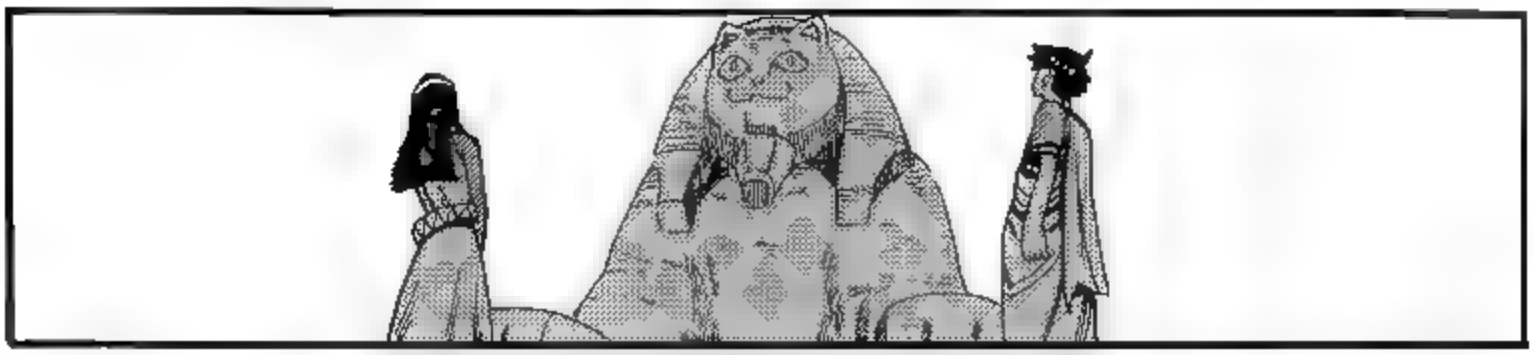
As the Buddha teaches us.

So today, Be reborn, and live again.

Let it go..?

Just like that..





wfft..

Feel so much lighter?

Just now, I..

What Was that?

You know, Akari here..

She lost her parents in the wars.

Hee hee!

I doubt you can go back to your old jobs, after all.

So how about you two hook up,

And be her new family?

I like it!

What would you think of that, Akari?

Isn't that nice.

Huh?!

gleee~

Think it over.

gulp

Well, we have plenty of time.

shF

Err..

That it wasn't to be.

Yeah, no way.

Absolutely not.

But we agreed quickly

True, time was one thing we had..

Despite losing an arm and a leg to her.

Well yeah, but marriage? No way.

Oddly, I couldn't bring myself to really hate her anymore,

I would't mind looking after Akari, though.

Or at least, that's the feeling I got.

I'd say we'd settled things already

If I had to put it into words,

When we were practicing walking with the crutches the priest made for us...

TOK

It wasn't long after that,

Seems the Furan were completely wiped out.

All?

I think this'll work.

Yeah,

This isn't so bad

You're doing it!

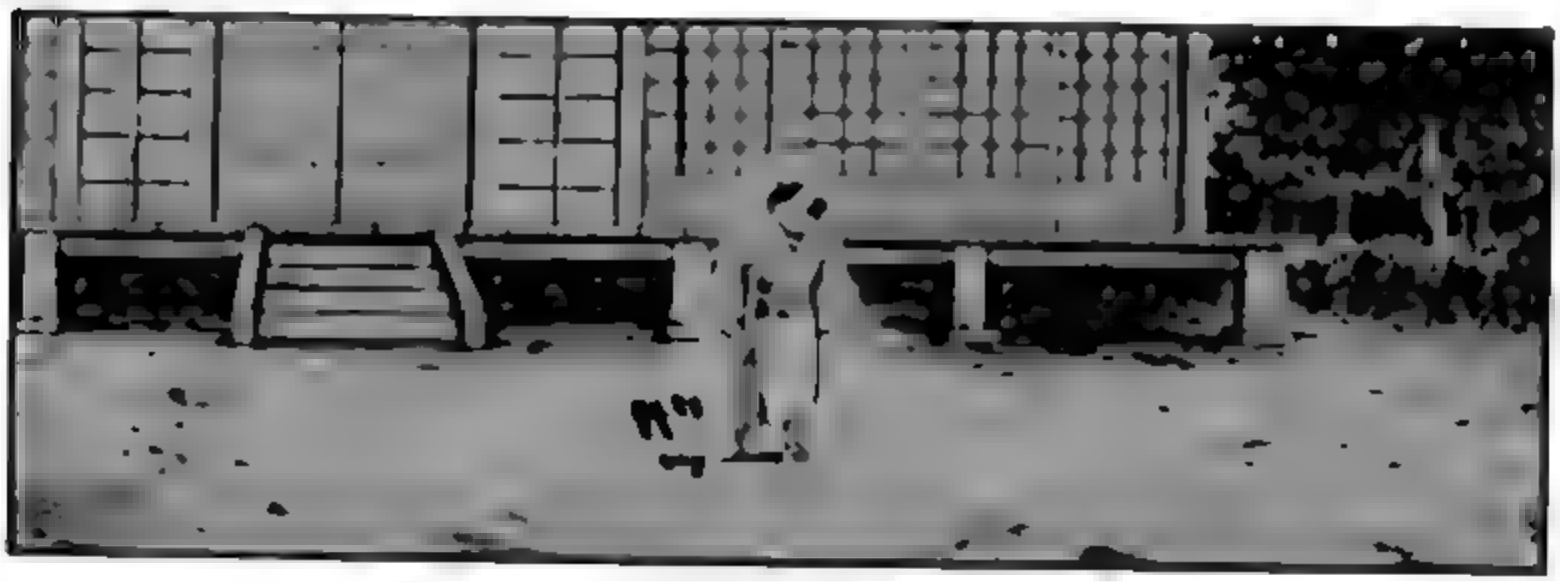
And they say the princess got swept away along with her pursuers in that slide.

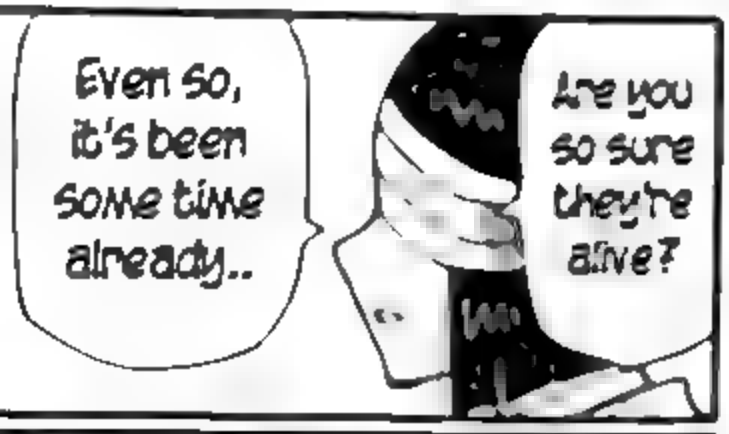
The young lord perished in the flames,

'Tis tragic, surely

I suppose they had it coming, but perhaps the shogunate went too far..

"SNNKK"




Even so, it's been some time already..
Are you so sure they're alive?

Tell them I'll repay them somehow, I promise.
Give my thanks to Akari and the head priest.

It's where we were meeting if we got separated.
...The next town.

Where are you going?

I just..

I want to know.

To do what?

Why?

I'M going too.

Wait!

That mission's long since over..

hop

hop

It's not like you can do anything even if they are there.

...

Fine.

Huff

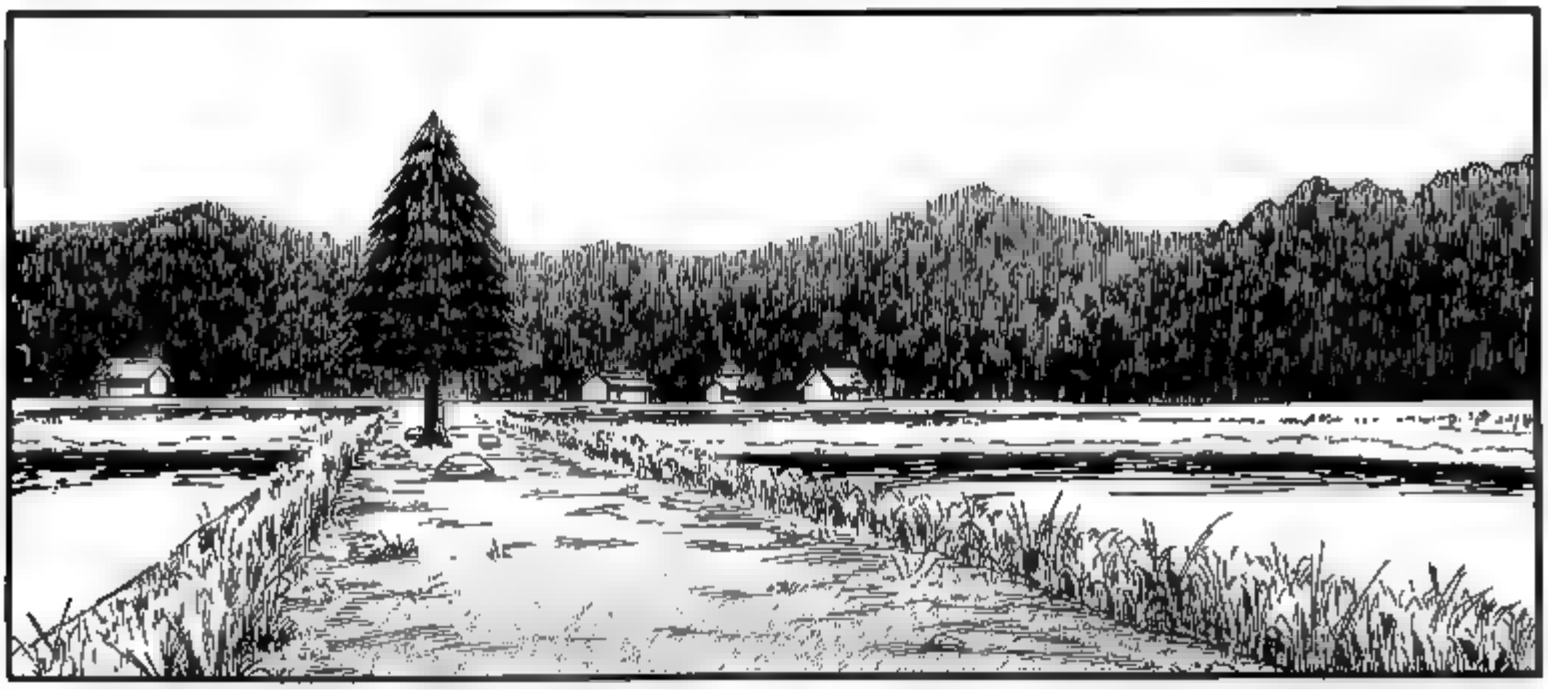
hff

rnf

Kaa

hff

Knf

uhp
hha
hpp
puff
hah
hah
huff
pant
mff

hmp
hff
No one..
hah
Damn!
There's no one..
ff
hff
ha
huh
huh..
Here?

It's yours.. Same as your face..

Huh..?

There, on the bark..

Houta-rou..

I knew it..

I just knew it!

I knew he'd be..

You see?

Ha.. Ha ha ha!

It's Jinku-rou

They're only about to start worse now...

No one will ever bother them again...

Sniff

We wouldn't be here if we could've kept...

Of course we didn't...

Finally, we're reborn..

It's time...

All of us.

It..

Okay.

Good. I'll take a break, then I'll start.

So tired from walking...

I dunno you...

Keep following them?

...Now what?

Maybe I should go too..

I need to pay them back, too..

Hmm.. Sounds good..

I'll go back.. Rest a little.. N' go back..

I'm gonna adopt Akari..

I tried so hard..

I thought we could just erase the dissenters..

To erase wars from this world

...I worked a long time

.....

..Reminds me I was young like her too..

Akari.. She makes me feel better again..

But now.. I'm so tired..

Tired of days spent fighting to end the fighting..

Happ'nd when I was 'bout her age..

...

Sure..

Evryone was once..

My home, in the west, was..

The head of my ninja clan took pity on me, and adopted me..

I guess I'll just.. Take a little nap..

And I was still talking..

..Hou-tarou?

What about your home?

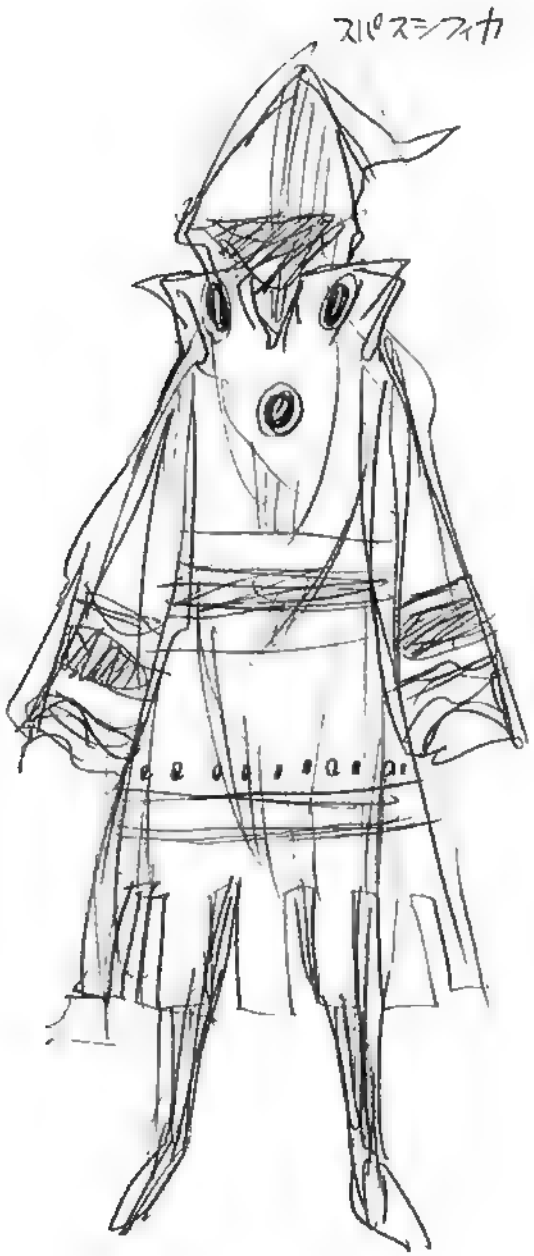
'M awake..

But, we.. Weren't they just talking..?

..Huh?

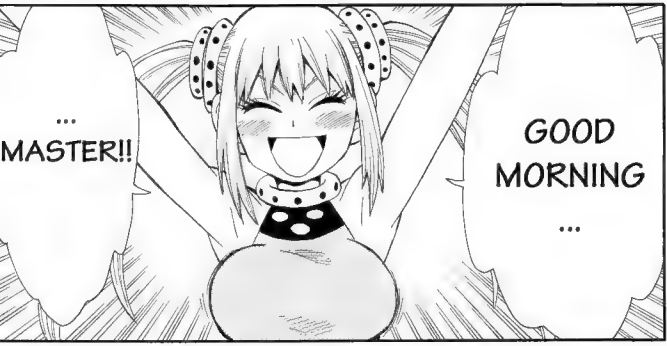
And there they lay, at the roots of the rendezvous tree...

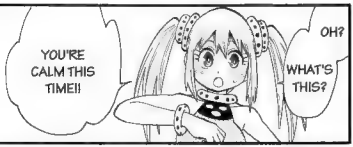
Spirit Circle continues January 30th


スパスミシフィカ

CIRCLE 20
CITY • 1

...
...
CLATTER
カラン
WUMPH
ドサッ
CLATTER
カラン

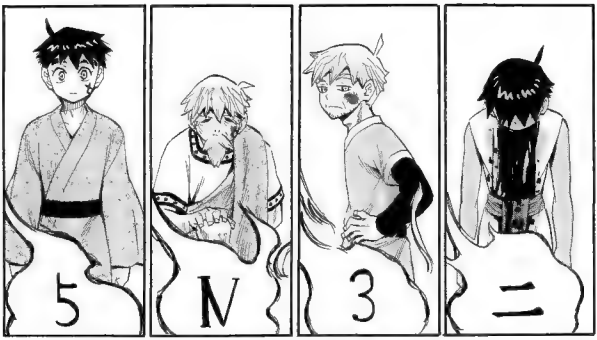

...
MASTER!!
GOOD MORNING
...


YOU'RE CALM THIS TIME!!
OH?
WHAT'S THIS?

SO COOL!
AND YOU SEEM KIND OF MATURE AND REFINED, MASTER!!

HEY.
MORN-ING.

IT WAS EXCESSIVELY DRAMATIC...
THIS PAST LIFE WAS ALMOST LIKE A MANGA... OR MAYBE A FILM.
... REFINED?
MAYBE IT'S HOUTAROU'S INFLUENCE...
THEY WERE BOTH YOUNG, BUT HIS DEATH WASN'T LIKE FONE'S.
HOUTAROU DIED YOUNG, BUT HE HAD SOME AMAZING EXPERIENCES...
!!
WHOA.
FWOOM
IN FACT, IT FEELS LIKE THINGS HAVE BEEN SETTLED BETWEEN ME AND ISHIGAMI-SAN...
OR SOME-THING...
IT FELT LIKE HE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE REGRETS.


5
N
3
二

ARE THERE STILL THREE MORE PAST LIVES?
NOW THE SPIRIT CIRCLE HAS FOUR FLAMES.
FOOM
ボ
N
三

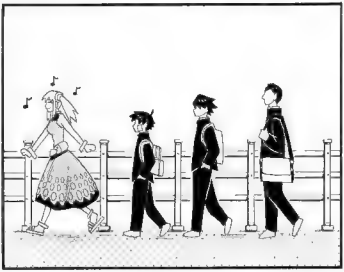
YOU SHOULD SMILE.
MASTER, YOU'RE MAKING A SCARY FACE.
SQUISH
II.
EVEN SKIPPING FORTUNA, THERE ARE STILL TWO MORE...
TWO? DIDN'T MY CONNECTION WITH ISHIGAMI-SAN END WITH HOUTAROU'S LIFE?

WHAT KIND OF COMPARISON IS THAT?
WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE YOU THREW OUT ALL YOUR PORN?
YOU SEEM DIFFERENT AGAIN.

GOOD MORNING.
HEY.

HEY.
GOOD MORNING, FUUTA.

THERE IS NO GREATER LUXURY.
I GET TO SEE MY FRIENDS EVERY MORNING.



LODE... A PLACE WHERE ADULT MAGAZINES HAVE BEEN ABANDONED. EQUIVALENT TO A GOLD MINE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS.
I FOUND A LODE AT THE GHOST APARTMENT. I'LL TELL YOU WHERE IT IS LATER.

SPEAKING OF PORN...
OH, RIGHT.

I WONDER IF THE HIGH SCHOOLERS IN THE APARTMENT THREW THEM OUT.
OH!
LIKE TAKEDA'S BRO?
GOOD GRIEF. THEY'RE SUCH CHILDREN.
RIGHT NOW I DON'T CARE ABOUT PORN...
HEH
BY THE WAY, I HAVEN'T HEARD RUMORS ABOUT THE APARTMENT'S GHOST RECENTLY.
MAYBE IT WAS EXORCISED.
...WHAT?!
FUUTA?
YOU SCARED ME.
WH-WHAT?
UM...
NOTHING...
I'VE GOT TO GO!!
WHERE?! WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
?!
THE GHOST APART-MENT!! I'M SKIPPING SCHOOL!!
DASH
MASTER, WAIT.
Y-YOU'RE GOING TO PICK IT UP NOW...?!
FUUTA...
HUFF
HUFF...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

YOU DIDN'T ASK SPECIFICALLY WHERE YOU COULD FIND THE LODE OF PORN.
THAT'S NOT IT!

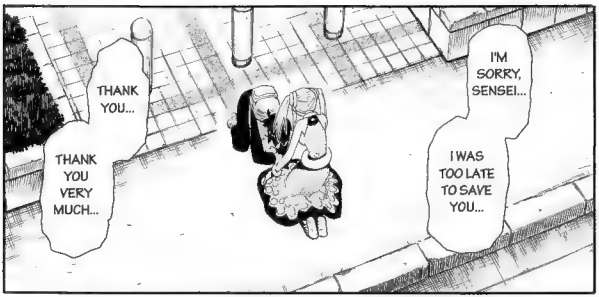
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?!
WE MET THE "SPIRIT OF THE FALLEN WARRIOR" HERE!!
UM... IN LATE SEPTEMBER!!

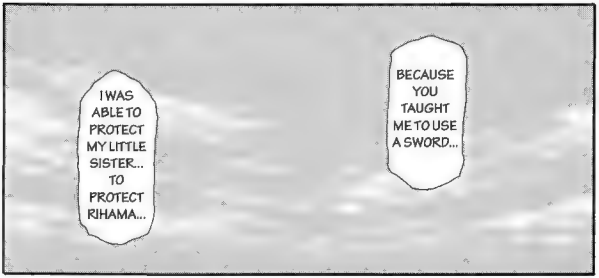
WAIT FOR ME!!
MASTER...

AND HE STOLE THAT SWORD AND SPEAR FROM HIS ENEMIES
...
HE WAS STUCK FULL OF ARROWS!
THE ONE SWINGING A SWORD AND STAFF
...
THAT PERSON STUCK WITH THOSE THINGS?
THE FALLEN WARRIOR?
OBAYASHI-SENSEI!!!
THAT PERSON IS...
THAT SPIRIT ...
WHAT HAPPENED TO OBAYASHI-SENSEI?!
RUNE...
YOU KNEW HIM?
I...HIT HIM WITH THE SPIRIT CIRCLE, BUT...
THIS WEAPON KILLS SOULS, DOESN'T IT?!
DID I...

THAT'S ...
THAT'S GOOD...
IN ANY CASE, HIS SOUL WASN'T KILLED OR DESTROYED.
HE RETURNED TO THE PLACE WHERE SPIRITS BELONG.
HE TURNED TO LIGHT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MASTER.
TURNED ...
...TO LIGHT?
DID... DID HE PASS AWAY?
UM... HE RETURNED TO THE LIGHT.
PASS AWAY?

HE... OBAYASHI-SENSEI BECAME A SPIRIT...
FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, HE KEPT...
HE KEPT PROTECT-ING THIS ROAD...


I'M SORRY, SENSEI...
I WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE YOU...
THANK YOU...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...


BECAUSE YOU TAUGHT ME TO USE A SWORD...
I WAS ABLE TO PROTECT MY LITTLE SISTER... TO PROTECT RIHAMA...

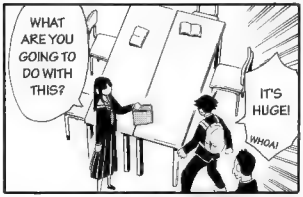
だーっ
DASH
MASTER?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS TIME?
がばっ
WUFF
WHOA
...
IWANA AND I FELL IN THIS RIVER...
THE RIVER BY THE APARTMENT ...!!
ガシャーン
CHANK
HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO...!!
I WAS HERE!!
PEOPLE DO CRAZY THINGS...
THEY CARVED OUT A MOUNTAIN TO BUILD AN APARTMENT HERE.

BACK TO SCHOOL!
I SAID I'D SKIP, BUT I GUESS I'LL GO.
SNIFFLE
THEY'D DRAG ME BACK TO SCHOOL IF ANYONE NOTICED ME.
...BUT I CAN'T GO TO THE LIBRARY NOW DRESSED LIKE THIS.
THE CITY'S HISTORY ...
I SEE.
AHHH!
IS THAT WHAT YOU TOLD THEM?
YOU'RE THE WORST.
DID YOU FIND THE PLACE? THEY WERE PRETTY HARD TO FIND.
WHAT KIND OF BOOKS DID YOU FIND THERE?
DID YOU FIND THEM?
FUUTA, IS IT TRUE YOU WENT TO PICK UP DIRTY BOOKS?

SIGN. REFERENCE ROOM

SOME-WHERE OVER THERE...
HMMM... ISHI-GAMI-SAN,
YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THIS CITY?
AW, YOU KNOW, THERE'S JUST SOMETHING I'M CURIOUS ABOUT.

BOOK· CITY HISTORY 1



...
...HUH? I THOUGHT YOU JOINED THE HISTORY CLUB TO RESEARCH LOCATIONS FROM OUR PAST LIVES.
PAST LIVES? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LOOKED WHAT UP?
WHAT?
YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH OUR CLUB'S ACTIVITIES. COULD YOU LEAVE ALREADY?
BESIDES, SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT THE ART CLUB?
OH.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
WHO KNOWS?
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
I'LL BE YOUR N-N-NUDE MOH... MODEL...
WHAT?! ARE YOU STILL THINKING ABOUT OUR CONVERSATION THIS MORNING?
FUUTA!! IF YOU WANT TO DRAW, I'LL...
BORROWED IT
HMMM.
IT'S HUGE...
WHAT AN EXHAUST-ING DAY...
SIGH.

WHAT?!

I HATE NIGHTTIME BECAUSE IT'S EASIER TO RUN INTO GHOSTS.
IT'S DARK BY THE TIME I LEAVE MY CLUB.

GOOD EVE-NING.
GOOD EVE-NING.
ISHI-GAMI-SAN.

HEY.
YOU.
STEP

WHAT DOES THE CITY'S HISTORY HAVE TO DO WITH OUR PAST LIVES?
I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
I THOUGHT YOUR HOUSE IS THE OTHER WAY.

...?!
IN THIS CITY...?!
...WHAT?
HOUTAROU DIED AROUND HERE.
WHAT?
YOU DON'T KNOW?
I DIED IN THE SAME PLACE.
TRYING TO HIKE ALL NIGHT THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS IN THAT CONDITION WAS TOO MUCH.
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT? AFTER I DIED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY...
OH.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED THIS LATEST PAST LIFE YET.
THAT THIS IS WHERE THAT PAST LIFE OCCURRED.
ANYWAY, HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I SEE.
...
IT WAS OBAYASHI-SENSEI, HOUTAROU'S SWORD MASTER.
D-DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF THE GHOST APARTMENT?

SATUR-
DAY.
SHOW
ME.
OH,
SORRY.
IF I TELL
YOU NOW,
IT'LL TAKE A
WHILE. LET'S
SAVE IT FOR
TOMORROW.
LATER...
KOKO-CHAN,
EAST-SAN,
SEE YOU
LATER!!
FARE-
WELL.
HUH?
I HAD A
STRANGE
DREAM ON
FRIDAY
NIGHT.

...WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
IS THIS ENOUGH?

...I'LL STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?
I'M LEAVING.

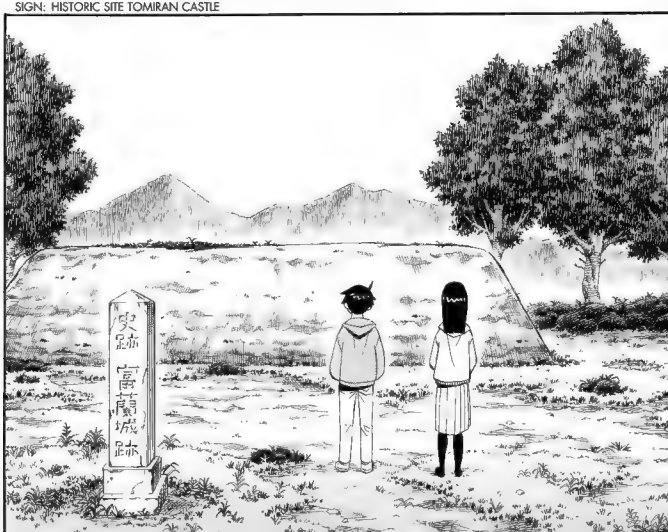
I'M... SATISFIED.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S ENOUGH.

THAT YOU MENTION IT...
YEAH ...

THERE'S SOME-THING I STILL HAVE TO DO.
OH...

I SEE.
GOOD BYE.

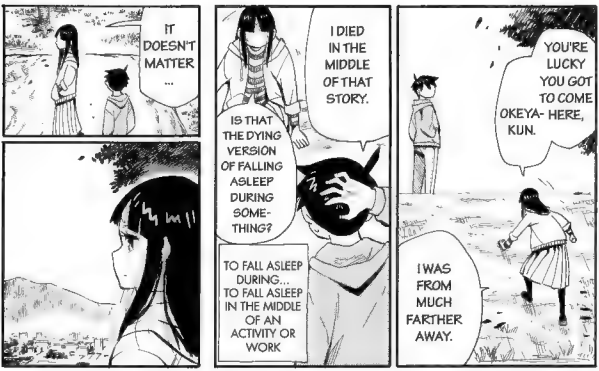
SIGN: HISTORIC SITE TOMIRAN CASTLE



I WONDER WHICH PART THIS WAS?
YEAH.
THEY SAID IT BURNED DOWN.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
THE REMAINS OF THE CASTLE.
SIGN: HISTORIC SITE
史跡富
HE WAS MY BROTHER WHEN I WAS YANN, TOO.
...YOU KNOW KAJIROU?
...
I DON'T REMEMBER.
DID HIS NAME HAVE A SIMILAR MEANING WHEN YOU WERE YANN?
HE SAID HE HATED THE CHARACTER "NEXT" IN HIS NAME.
HAVE YOU MET HIM?
YES.
THAT IDIOT, HUH?

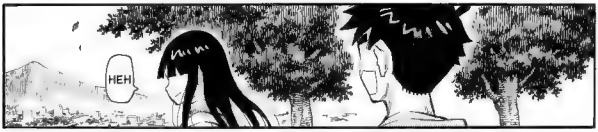
THE TEMPLE IS A RICE FIELD NOW.
YOU'D HAVE TO TAKE A BUS TO GET THERE, THOUGH...
THERE'S A BUILDING WHERE THE TREE WAS.
...DO YOU KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE TREE WHERE WE DIED OR THE TEMPLE THAT HELPED US?

...I SEE.
IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS LEFT BEHIND AS PROOF.
...IT'S IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER, THOUGH.
THIS PLACE.
IN ANY CASE, THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE MARKED AS A HISTORIC SITE.


IT DOESN'T MATTER ...
I DIED IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT STORY.
IS THAT THE DYING VERSION OF FALLING ASLEEP DURING SOME-THING?
TO FALL ASLEEP DURING... TO FALL ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ACTIVITY OR WORK
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU GOT TO COME OKEYA- HERE, KUN.
I WAS FROM MUCH FARTHER AWAY.

I WAS THE PRINCESS OF A SMALL COUNTRY DESTROYED BY WAR.
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED,
BUT THE LEADER OF THE NINJAS TOOK PITY ON ME. HE TOOK ME IN AND RAISED ME.
I BECAME A NINJA.
I LIVED, BUT HATED BATTLE.
THAT'S WHY I FOUGHT UNDER TOKUGAWA AND SOUGHT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE, AND AN END TO THE CIVIL WAR.
OR SO I SAID, BUT I WAS JUST MAKING EXCUSES TO FIGHT.
...IT WAS STUPID.
JUST LIKE YOU SAID...
I WAS SIMPLY A MURDERER.
ISHIGAMI-SAN.

DIDN'T IT END THERE?!
THE CHAINS OF HATE... OUR CONNECTION ...
THE BOTH OF US.
BACK THEN...
WE WERE SATISFIED.


HEH.

AFTER ALL, I'M KOKO...
...AND YOU'RE FORTUNA.

OF COURSE IT'S NOT OVER.

フルトラ

CIRCLE 21
CITY 2

ISHI-GAMI-SAN.
BACK THEN, WE WERE SATISFIED.
THE BOTH OF US.

THE CHAINS OF HATE...
OUR CONNECTION...
DIDN'T IT END THERE?!
...HEH.
...OF COURSE IT'S NOT OVER.

AFTER ALL, I'M KOKO...
...AND YOU'RE FORTUNA.

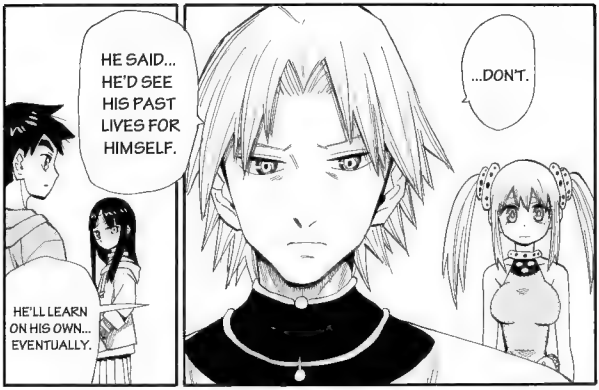
...REBORN THEN!!
WE WERE...
...REALLY SO IMPORTANT?
MORE THAN YOUR CURRENT LIFE?
IS THAT...
ABOUT KOKO.
ABOUT FORTUNA.
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT?
IWANA DIDN'T KNOW.
...AND LIE DOWN AND DIE?
OR WOULD YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH KOKO...
WOULD YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH FORTUNA?
I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT *THAT*.
...ISHIGAMI-SAN.
YOU'RE ALWAYS *GOING ON* ABOUT THAT...

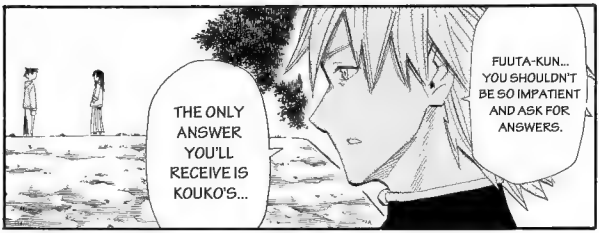
THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY!!

WHAT DID FORTUNA DO?!
JUST TELL ME ALREADY!!

ARGH...
ぐしゃ RUFFLE
ぐしゃ RUFFLE
WHY ARE YOU SO...

KOUKO!!
...
FORTUNA MADE...


HE SAID... HE'D SEE HIS PAST LIVES FOR HIMSELF.
HE'LL LEARN ON HIS OWN... EVENTUALLY.
...DON'T.


THE ONLY ANSWER YOU'LL RECEIVE IS KOUKO'S...
FUUTA-KUN... YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO IMPATIENT AND ASK FOR ANSWERS.

EAST...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
...

FORGET IT.
IT'D TAKE TOO LONG...
...TO EXPLAIN ALL OF FORTUNA'S WRONG-DOINGS.
SHUFFLE
HOW MANY IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT?
ALL OF THEM?
JUST HOW BAD WAS THIS GUY?
SHUFFLE
BUT THE TEMPLE AND TREE AREN'T THERE ANYMORE.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SHOW ME AROUND TOWN.
I DON'T MIND. I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE THEY WERE.
HUH?
...WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?
LET'S GO.

I-IT'S NOT A DATE!!
KOKO-CHAN, YOU'RE BLUSH-ING.
LET'S GO ON WITH THE DATE.
HOORAY!
GLAP
D-DATE?
RUNE!
HURRY, HURRY.
MAS-TER!
HA HA HA.
...TO HATE THIS GIRL...?
...BRING MYSELF...
WHY CAN'T I...
SHE HATES ME SO MUCH.
NOW THAT I'M THINKING ABOUT IT, I FEEL SO NERVOUS.
DAMN.

RIGHT?
THEY'RE UNBELIEV-ABLE...
HUMPH...

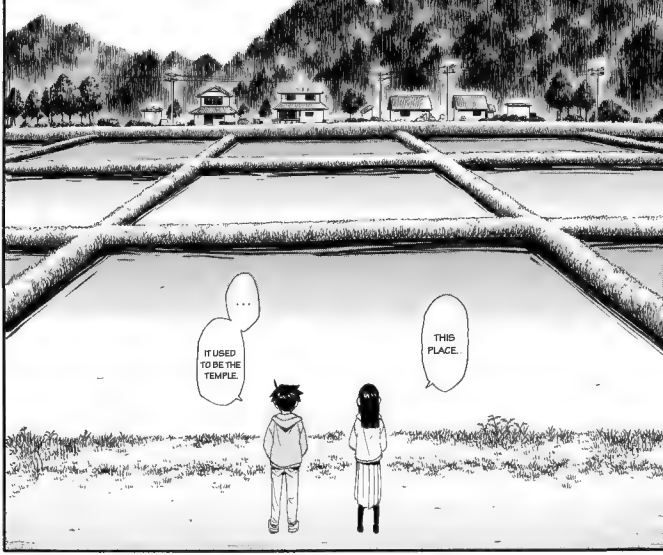
DO WHAT?!
YOU CAN DO IT, MASTER!!
FUUTA-KUN... YOU CAN DO IT!

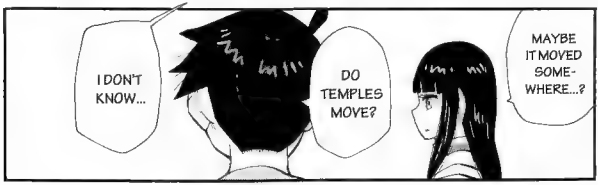
I ONLY JUST NOTICED, BUT...

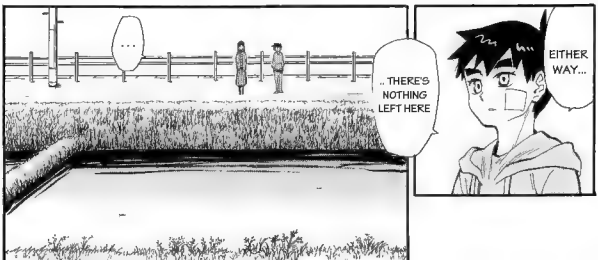
HUH?
...
...IN ANY CASE, LET'S GO.
I DON'T WANT TO STAY TOO LONG.

...THERE SEEM TO BE A LOT OF STRAGGLERS.

SURELY KAJIROU'S NOT ONE OF THEM...
SO HOT...
SO HOT...
AHHH...
URGH...
あつい
あつい
うう
あ...
DON'T MEET THEIR GAZE.
DON'T REACT TO THEM EITHER.
...!!
GOOD...
...WAIT, ISN'T THAT MY MOM?!
AND MATSU-SAN...
...YOU MAY HAVE A CERTAIN PHYSICAL PREDIS-POSITION.
MAYBE THE CHAKRAS AROUND YOUR EYES ARE EASIER TO OPEN
I ONLY SAW A SPIRIT FOR A MOMENT AFTER HOTAROU, TOO.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING WEIRD AFTER FONE.
WHAT IS THIS, AN ANIME?
...THAT LETS YOU SHOOT BALLS OF ENERGY?
ISN'T CHAKRA THAT THING...
I FEEL LIKE I SAW SOME-THING...
...DID YOU SEE ANY SPIRITS?
WHEN THAT LANDSLIDE HAPPENED DURING HOTAROU AND IWANA'S FIGHT...
SPEAK-ING OF SEEING...


...
IT USED TO BE THE TEMPLE.
THIS PLACE.

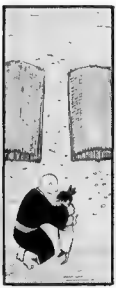

I DON'T KNOW...
DO TEMPLES MOVE?
MAYBE IT MOVED SOME-WHERE...?

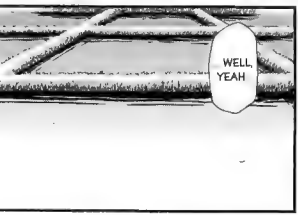

...
.. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT HERE
EITHER WAY...

I DID AN AWFUL THING TO THEM
I LEFT WITH-OUT A WORD...
...AND DIED...

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO AKARI AND THE HEAD PRIEST...

I'M SORRY.
AKARI MUST HAVE CRIED...




WELL, YEAH.

EVEN IF THEY DID, IN THESE CONDI-TIONS...
MAYBE WE HAVE GRAVES AROUND HERE.
THEY COULD HAVE BROUGHT US HERE AFTER WE DIED.

THE PLACE WHERE WE DIED.
SHALL WE GO TO THE NEXT PLACE?

...IN CASE WE WERE SEPARATED.
WE ESTABLISHED A MEETING PLACE...

YEAH...
...I SEE. IT'S PERFECT FOR A MEETING PLACE.

SERI-OUSLY...
SLUUURP SLUUURP
ズズズ
ゴゴゴ

THERE'S NOTHING SENTI-MENTAL ABOUT IT.

I WONDER IF THEY FOUND HAPPINESS...?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM AFTER THAT.
JINKUROU AND RIHAMA...
THEIR NAMES ARE DIFFERENT, BUT THEY COULD BE RELATED.
...MASHIRO-KUN AND UMI ARE THEIR DESCENDANTS.
MASHIRO TETSUMA > TETSU
MAY-BE...
HEH.
REALLY NICE.
IT'D BE...
...
HA HA.
THAT'D BE NICE.
UH, OH.
OKEYA-KU...
DON'T CRY HERE...
HEY.
YOU...

I'M GONNA TELL ON YOU.
YOU MADE HIM CRY.

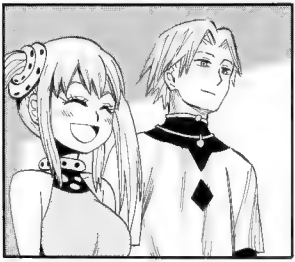
T-TETSU, UMI.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WAIT.
SNAP!
I'M PHOTO-GRAPHING YOUR DATE.

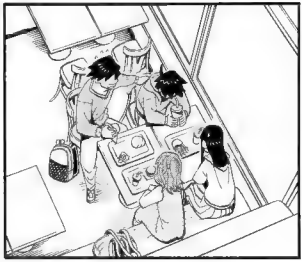
TO THE DOJO
WHAT? YOU GO, TOO, UMI?
THE DOJO'S RIGHT IN THE AREA
ME, TOO.
SOME-TIMES.
I GET HUNGRY
THIS PLACE
I COME HERE OFTEN ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE DOJO.
ARE YOU TWO ON A DATE?
WE'RE NOT..!!
UM... NO.
ANYWAY, ARE YOU TWO...
ARE WE WHAT?
OH
NOTH-ING.
...IT SEEMS LIKE YOU TWO ARE ON A DATE, TOO.
ACT-UALLY...
ARE YOU?
WE'RE LIKE SIBLINGS.
DON'T BE STUPID
WHAT IS IT?
SEC-OND COU-SINS?
MY GRAND-MA'S SIDE, YOU KNOW.
WE'RE RELATED.
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT
AND MY GRANDPA'S DOJO
CAN'T SECOND COUSINS GET MARRIED, THOUGH?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE WOULD

TH-THEY'RE RELATED...
ISHI-GAMI-SAN...
WE DIDN'T TELL YOU?
HUH?
CRINKLE
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
...I DIDN'T KNOW.
CALM DOWN...
I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY IF...
...IT WAS JUST HYPO-THETICAL.
WELL..

SIGN: HAMBURGER

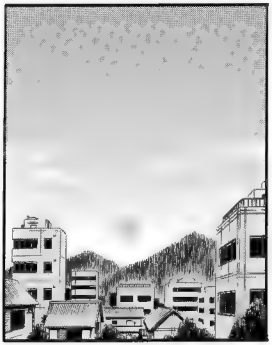
I'M GLAD THAT WE MET AGAIN HERE.





IT WASN'T A DATE.
WE WEREN'T ON A DATE.

SEE YA!
OKAY, OKAY.



...
WE WEREN'T!!
RIGHT?
WHO CARES WHAT THEY THINK?

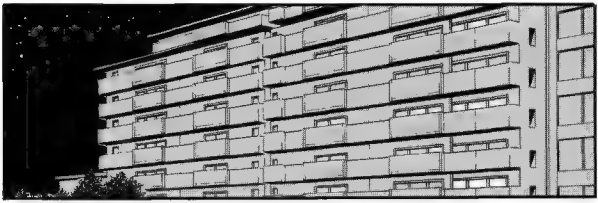
WHISPER WHISPER

THANKS.
...FOR TODAY.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET HOME?
...SHEESH. I'M LEAVING.
I'LL BE FINE FROM HERE.

BYE...
...

...THANK YOU.
NO...
BYE.

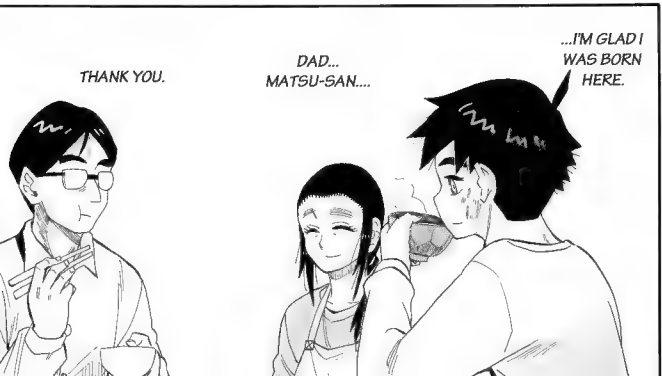


THAT DISTANCE I DESPERATELY COVERED ON FOOT IS A HALF-DAY ROUND TRIP BY TRAIN AND BUS, HUH...
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
HUMANS ARE AMAZING.

YOU TOOK THE TRAIN AND BUS, HUH? MUST'VE BEEN A LONG TRIP.
IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER?
WHERE WERE YOU TODAY?
THE CASTLE RUINS.

MAYBE A SPIRIT?
OR A GHOST?
A PHAN-TOM?
...SO, FIND ANYTHING AT THE RUINS?
HOW MATURE OF YOU TO TAKE THE TRAIN ALONE.

WHY DID YOU GO, ANYWAY?
TO STUDY THE PLACE...
WELL...
ACTUALLY...
I DIDN'T GO ALONE... AND THERE WERE GHOSTS...


THANK YOU.
DAD... MATSU-SAN....
...I'M GLAD I WAS BORN HERE.

LET'S GO.
WHOOSH
OKAY.

I'LL SEE YOU OFF, THEN.
ARE YOU?
I WASN'T THAT STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY HOTAROU.
I'M CALM, SEE?
I'M FINE.
YOU JUST DID THAT THE OTHER DAY.
SHOULDN'T YOU TAKE SOME MORE TIME BEFORE...
MAS-TER?

BAM
I'M NOT IN A HURRY.
I'M NOT FLUSTERED.
IT'S JUST THAT EVEN THOUGH I KEEP MEETING THE ONES I WANT TO SEE...
...I'VE NEVER MET YOU AGAIN...
REI...
REI...!!

YOU WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT REI WHEN YOU COME HERE, SO I'LL TELL YOU.
?!
FOR...
YOU CAN'T SEE THAT SPIRIT AGAIN.

スピリットサークル
魂環

スピリットサークル
第3巻

作画スタッフ
蝶田じゅえる
臼井仁志
相模 映

タイトルロゴ&カバーデザイン
萩原栄一(bigbody)

担当編集
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スピリットサークル

3

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Spirit Circle chapter 16 By Satoshi Mizukami

RAW AND CLEANING: ANICOLE

translation and typesetting: Duralumin

Dura Sez:

This is the September chapter. After the August hiatus I straight up forgot this comic was coming back, so it's late. October is also coming soon. November isn't published yet.

Spirit Circle chapter 17

By Satoshi Mizukami

RAW AND CLEANING: ANON

translation and typesetting: Duralumin

DURA SEZ:

There's October! November raws should be in hand soon but I'm switching gears to my OTHER overdue comic first (Otoyomegatari)

Spirit Circle chapter 18 By Satoshi Mizukami

RAW AND CLEANING: ANON

translation and typesetting: Duralumin

Spirit Circle chapter 19 By Satoshi Mizukami

RAW AND CLEANING: ANON

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Dura Sez:

Spirit Circle is now licensed by Crunchyroll, you can read the next chapter (20) there now. I will not be able to match their release speed, but if I feel their quality is not consistently high enough, I will continue my releases anyway. We'll see how the next few chapters are done.

Congratulations, Mizukami-Sensei!!